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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least four yearly subscribers together with 25 cents to pay for each subscriber, so as to may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly set down in addition to the writer's full name and address with name de plume, if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

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6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may, at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR DECEMBER.

Sarah E. Gannett, First Prize.

Oscar S. Seaver, Second Prize.

Hubert Edwards, Third Prize.

Chester Livingstone, Fourth Prize.

Burton McPhail, Fifth Prize.

The Kid's Christmas.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH E. GANNETT.

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HERE'S that coon staring in at the window again! That's the third time this week that I have caught him at it and I'm going to put an end to it," and Harvey Young dashed out of the room and soon returned, dragging by the collar an unwilling specimen of the colored race about twelve years old. Ragged, dirty, lean and shivering with cold, he presented a strong contrast to the two occupants of the warm, bright room into which he had been so unceremoniously introduced.

"Now, then, young un," said Harvey, releasing his hold on the urchin, "give us an account of yourself. What are you prying into honest people's houses in this way for? No you don't, young man! Not much!" as the child made a dart for the door of the room. "I'll just lock this door and put the key in my pocket until you have answered my questions. Come now, out with it!"

"Worn't doin' nothin'," muttered the boy.

"Worn't doin' nothin'?" Yes, you were, too. You've been spying on us for a week, and I just think that you intended to rob us. I've a great mind to turn you over to the police, and I will, too, if you don't own up."

"I warn't doin' no harm, 'deed I worn't!" whimpered the boy. "I was on'y—" and he hesitated, turned gray with fright and the big tears stood in his eyes.

"Oh, Harvey," exclaimed his sister Amy, a pretty young girl of sixteen, "you frightened him so that he doesn't know what to say. Let me try. See here, little boy, what shall I call you? Ike! Well, Ike, you are too cold to tell a straight story, I know. Come over here by the fire and warm your fingers and toes a bit. We are not going to hurt you, but we want very much to know why you are keeping such a watch upon us."

The boy responded to the compelling pressure of the gentle hand upon his shoulder by seating himself in a low chair by the open fire and spreading his little black claws to the grateful warmth, and then, glancing up into the winning face above him he gathered courage to say:

"I on'y wanted to see yer gittin' ready for Crismis."

"Well, I like that!" interposed Harvey. "Stealing our Christmas secrets and—"

"Hush, Harvey. He didn't intend to steal, I am sure; but tell us, Ike, why you wanted to see us at work. You must have some reason for it."

"Deed, I wasn't goin' to steal," answered the boy, eagerly, "but—but—" and he stopped.

"Out with it," said Harvey, impatiently. "We can't wait all night."

The boy glanced at Amy, and seeing encour-

agement in her smiling face he said:

"Well, it's this-a-way. Yer see, Jim an' me we's partners, an' we's got a little kid to home what's lame an' sick, an' coughs orful; an' now Crismis is comin', an' she wants a Crismis s'prise the wust kind. Jim an' me, we wants to give it to her, cos she never had no good times, on'y poundin's an' kicks an' starvin's; but we ain't never had no Crismis, either of us, an' we don't know how it ought to be did; an' I heard you two tellin' some other folks that you was goin' to have one, an' that you was goin' to work fer it evenin's, an' so I t'ought I'd watch out an' maybe I'd fin' out how to do it. Dat's all, 'deed 'tis, honest."

"Who is this kid, as you call her? Your sister?" asked Amy.

"My sister? No, I ain't done got no sister. Her name's Katie Stark, an' she's a pore little lame thing, what goes on crutches. Dey 'buse her orful, cos she's lame an' can't do nothin'; an' long 'bout two weeks ago her muder was sent up for stealin' an' gittin' drunk, an' ole Mis Plunkett, where she lived, turned her out on the street in a hard rainstorm, cos she couldn't earn the grub she ate; an' me an' Jim we found her a-settin' on the curb-stone in the rain a-cryin'."

"Who is Jim?" interrupted Harvey.

"Didn't I done tolle yer? Jim an' me's partners."

"Partners in what?"

"Oh, we lives together an' shares what we earns. Sometimes we don't get much."

"What do you do?"

"We has newspaper routes, and sells 'Stars' an' 'Posts' and de 'Times', an' den we goes to de markets in de mornin's an' totes baskets for de ladies. Some days we gets a right smart o' money dat way, an' some days we don't get 'nough to eat. But, yer see," the boy added with a bright look, "we don't have to pay no rent where we lives."

"How is that? Where do you live?"

Ike started and a look of fear came into his eyes. Evidently he had not intended to let out that secret, but the warmth and the interest of the young people had led him to say more than he was aware of.

"I ain' gwine tell yer dat. Yer'll peach to de cops, an' den we'll hab to git out."

"No, we won't. Tell away."

"Honor bright?"

"Honor bright," answered Harvey, laughing a little at the idea of sharing the secret of a durkey. "That is," he added, "if I find there's no harm in it."

"Tain't no harm. We don't interfere wid nobody, an' a fell'er's got to have a place to sleep, an' to keep de kid, now, ain't he?"

"Well, tell us where it is," said Harvey, impatiently.

"Hoh! yes, an' have you runnin' to de police wid de news!" scornfully replied Ike. "Not much I don't tell."

"Oh, come, now," exclaimed Harvey, "I'm not so mean as all that. I won't tell on you. Out with it."

"Well," said Ike, "do yer know that big pile of lumber an' old iron down back of de B. & O. depot?"

"Yes."

"Well, Jim an' me used to sleep there last summer, an' when we got de kid on our hands we t'ought it would make a fine private apartment for her; so we found an ole dry goods box an' turned it on its side, an' hid de place where we go in, an' dere you are. Suite o' rooms at de Arlington, we calls em, on'y dey is very quiet an' retired. But I wish 'twor a bit warmer," he added, musingly. "De kid shivers some, an' den she coughs orful, too."

"Gracious!" exclaimed Harvey, "I should think she would. The very idea of a sick baby living in a box in this weather. Why don't you take her to the Board of Charities or to the Washington Asylum or some such place? She ought to be in a Home of some kind and you too."

The boy started with alarm.

"But she don't want to go to no 'sylum. She's 'fraid o' such places, an' we promised her she shouldn't be took there. She cried orful cos she t'ought we-all was goin' to take her to the 'thorities. No, she won't go to no 'sylum, not while me an' Jim can help it," and the boy drew up his tiny frame proudly.

"But she'll die of the cold in that box, and then the police will arrest you and Jim for murder."

The boy's face instantly fell and all the light went out of it. Evidently the idea was not a new one to him, for he muttered:

"She ain't gwine die. We-all's done got a piece o' mattin' to put over her, an' some newspapers, an' I'll get a comforble soon's I can."

"Matting and newspapers! Gracious! Oh, here are papa and mamma at last. I thought they would never come home. Oh, papa, just listen to this," and Harvey plunged headlong into Ike's pitiful little story of devotion and self-sacrifice, to which his parents listened with great interest.

"And now, papa," he finished, "Don't you think that Katie ought to go to some kind of a Home?"

"Katie ain't gwine to no Home!" put in Ike, desperately. "Jim an' me we done promised her that she shouldn't, an' we keeps our word," this last a little proudly.

"And so do we keep our word, my boy," answered Mr. Young, gently; "and Katie shall not be taken from you against your will; but we want to make you all more comfortable if we can. So if you will eat this hot supper which Amy has brought you, mother and I will see what can be done."

Poor little Ike's eyes sparkled at the sight of the food and he started toward it eagerly, and then stopped, saying:

"Ef you'd git me a paper bag I'd like to take it home to Jim an' the kid."

"No, no, my boy," answered Mrs. Young; "this is all for you; you shall have more to take to Katie and Jim." And Ike waited for nothing more but ate as if famished.

When he had finished to the last crumb Mrs. Young said:

"Now here is supper for Jim and a bottle of hot milk for Katie. Coax her to drink it all and then wrap her warmly in this big old quilt before she goes to sleep. Here is another for you and Jim to put over yourselves; and now we want you to promise to be here again, all three of you at ten o'clock tomorrow morning."

"T' kid too?"

"Yes, and Jim. I think we can find you all a better place to sleep than that dry-goods box."

"T' ain't—"

"No, you will be perfectly free to go away whenever you wish to do so."

"Sure 'nuff? Den we-all will come an' tank yer kindly mam," and Ike disappeared into the night loaded with bundles.

The next morning rain was falling heavily and the streets were running rivers of water, and as ten o'clock came and passed the Youngs concluded that the little "coons" would not leave the shelter of their box that morning; but long after the appointed time a queer little procession came creeping up the fashionable thoroughfare of Q. street, and stopped in front of the Young residence. It consisted of Ike and a boy even smaller than himself, both streaming with rain and carrying between them a rude litter of poles and matting in which was an invisible something wrapped in the old quilts given to Ike the evening before. The cavalcade was speedily conducted to the kitchen and the soaked covers of the litter being unfolded revealed a minute, wizened little colored girl of six years with a pitiful hump between her small shoulders. She was evidently very ill and gasped for breath as she coughed.

"Thought we-all wasn't never goin' to get here," remarked Ike.

"Why didn't you come in the street cars? Father gave you the tickets!" exclaimed Harvey.

"Case de c'ductor wouldn't let us on," said Ike. "He say git a ambulance an' take her to de hospitile. She too sick to ride in de cars. So Jim an' me we jes' toted her."

"All the way?"

"Cose; what-all else mought we do?"

"Well," said Mr. Young, "you are good boys to the little thing and I like you for it; but now pull up your chair and eat your breakfasts, you and Jim, and then the carriage will be here for us."

Wild alarm was instantly visible on all the little black faces.

"Oh, you need not be frightened," said Mr. Young, smiling, "we are not going to an institution of any kind but over on Pomeroy street where there is an old colored Auntie who lives all alone in a nice little house. She is getting old and lame and needs just such active boys as you two to live with her and help her. She will take good care of Katie and when she is well she can help, too."

It was the "Night before Christmas, and all through the house" of Aunt Nancy "not a creature was stirring", when a low knock came at the outer door. Aunt Nancy was expecting it, however, and her turbaned head shortly appeared in the doorway and admitted into her neat little parlor Harvey and Amy Young, both well laden with bundles; while a servant bore a small tree already planted in its box. Setting this up in the corner prepared for it he returned to the carriage for two immense baskets and then, blanketing his horses, he was ready to assist in preparing the "s'prise"; and in an hour the tree, laden with warm clothing and a liberal sprinkling of toys, candies and fruits, stood reaching out its branches with invitation to Christmas joy and gladness in every spray. A turkey "wid all de fixin's," as Aunt Nancy delightedly expressed it, together with a big plum pudding, were piled on a paper on the floor, and the Youngs prepared to depart.

"But are you sure the children are asleep, Aunt Nancy?" questioned Amy.

"Lawsy, yes, honey. Dey'll sleep t'roo anything. Look yere an' see fer yourseif," and Aunt Nancy opened the door leading into the warm kitchen and the tiny bedroom beyond; but alas for her rash assertion! Propped up among the snowy pillows of Aunt Nancy's own bed in a corner of the kitchen, and carefully wrapped by Ike in a shawl, sat Katie, now rapidly recovering from her cold under Aunt Nancy's care, her black eyes big and round with wonder at the sounds going on in the next room; while Ike and Jim, two little ebony shapes in bare feet and nighties, were dancing noiselessly but excitedly from bedroom to kitchen.

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LIQUID—
BETTER YET!
FIRE PROOF!!

"Bress my soul, chilluns!" exclaimed Aunt Nancy, "What am all dis? Git back into bed dis minute, Ike and Jim, or Santa Claus'll ketch you at it and dere won't be a ting for any one of you tomorrow."

The little black faces clouded over at once, and the boys turned to go into the bedroom as they were bidden, but Ike turned back to say:

"Deed, Aunt Nancy, we t'ought Santa Claus had done come by de sound in de parlor, an' we t'ought de s'prise was ready."

"And so it is! so it is!" exclaimed Amy. "Oh, please, Aunt Nancy, won't you let them have one peep, just to please us? as long as they are awake."

"Certain, honey, certain; jes' as you say; but wait a minute till I wrop up dis baby so she won't take cole. Dar now," and in a few minutes the children were all in front of the wonderful tree, Katie a bundle of blankets and shawls in the arms of Aunt Nancy.

Great was the amazement and delight.

"Ki! See dem cloes. Jes de ticket for me."

"Santa Claus sure knowed ma size wen he brung dem shoes."

"Katie, dere's two, tree li'l gowns jes a fit fer you, an' de swellest hat! see, Jim, wid a ric ribbon on it. Dat's fer you, too, Katie."

"Oh!" cried Katie, suddenly, in a voice of hushed delight, "dere's a doll tabby dere! Dere's a doll baby! Oh!" clasping her tiny black hands. "Might I hold her des a minute?"

Amy could not resist such a plea, and the doll, a beautiful great one, was in Katie's feeble arms in a minute, and the child hung over it in speechless delight, paying no further attention to the tree or to the chatter of the boys.

At last Aunt Nancy declared they must all go to bed at once, and in the morning each should have a share from the tree. She attempted to

dollie back on the tree. She will be very lonely and she might cry all night if she had to stay alone here in the dark. Katie will have to take her to bed with her," and the dark eyes of the child fairly shone with delight as she clasped the dollie to her heart and was borne off to bed.

Ike and Jim followed, but suddenly Ike turned, and standing straight in front of Amy and Harvey he said.

"Dis yer ain't no dry goods box of a home, not by a long shot. It's way out o' sight o' dat; an' we all's done got another s'prise, an' dat's ole Aunt Nancy. She's done tolle us we-all's her chillun, an' she's gwine keep us for allers. I wants ter tank yer, on'y I don't know how;" and the tears stood in the child's eyes as he spoke.

Amy quickly held out her hand and took the little black one.

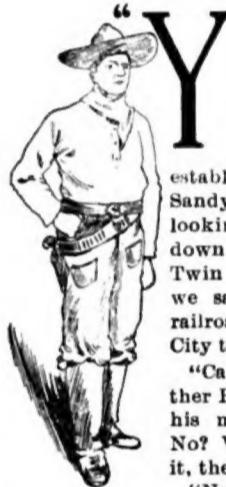
"You have thanked us," she said, "and you will thank us again every day that you stay here with Aunt Nancy and try to help her and make her happy; and, besides, I shall feel thanked every day that I see you trying to make a good boy and a good man of yourself. Will you try?"

"Deed I will, Miss Amy. Me an' Jim we ain't gwine be no street gamins. We-all's gwine to school every day as your pa done tolle us, an' we earns our money nights an' mornin's an' Saturdays. Yes, I'm comin', Aunt Nancy," and away skipped Ike to dream of the coming delights of that tree and of the Christmas dinner.

The Meeting House Bonanza.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY OSCAR S. SEAVIER.

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"**Y**ES sir," began my old friend Sandy Low, "there have been some ruther strange runs of luck in these parts. Now there's the meetin' house, fust church established in Montana." Sandy pointed to a churchy looking structure half way down from the office of the Twin Lead Silver Mine where we sat smoking and the ore railroad leading from Spruce City to the Valley Smelters.

"Calate you never heard of the Reverend Dick Grilby and his meetin' house bonanza. No? Well you can figure you're it, then."

"Now Grilby struck Spruce City about '70 when it was a placer camp, wild as they made 'em you can bet. Regular roarin' hell all the time. Couldn't breathe unless you roared. Wouldn't think it now would you—a tuck me up in bed little community like this? No sir! Now there were eight other camps down the gulch considerably wild themselves, and as Grilby came into camp that way, he had to pass the whole procession. 'Bout the time he reached the band which was Spruce City, he figured that he'd located about as much cussedness as one sky pilot had any use fer, and same bein' biled down in the bottom of our gulch handy like, he calated he'd stay. So me bein' single and a respectable sort of a cuss, he went snacks on my cabin.

"Wall the camp wan't sendin' him no dinner cards. Couldn't figure on his use. But I seed Grilby was a square feller and got to likin' him. The boys at the Paradise expected he'd begin to rant about the gilded halls of vice and sich and they might have to hurt his feelin's puttin' him and the camp on congenial terms. Red Harvey, the proprietor ruther egged on sich feelin's, expectin' there'd be fun.

"But Grilby warnt that sort. He was a big feller, didn't look particularly tame, read his bible considerable but didn't pester the boys with it a bit. What stuck in his crop was what he called the grounded viciousness of their place which meant the hooray times Sundays at the Paradise. Every time he heard yellin' or shootin' he'd grit his teeth and git ugly until one wide open night when the whole gulch came in to camp and was the cause of three funerals next day, Grilby up and swore he'd turn the Paradise from the hell trap it was into a house of the Lord.

"That's the house of the Lord down there, pardner; just as he said he'd do; and I calate I'm the oldest member countin' absences.

"Well, havin' laid out his proposition he didn't git figits whenever he heard a hooray time goin' on. Just because he didn't rant and yell and git argumentative the boys had to give up importin' a bucket of tar which they had speculated on. Red Harvey was ruther disappointed at that, bein' ruther an ornery cuss. Asked me one day when my pardner the sky pilot was comin' down to give his song and dance. I says, 'pretty soon,' but the dance would be on the chest of the fust man what didn't encore his song, which shet Red Harvey up.

"But that warnt the preacher's game. As I said he was a giant and naturally got respectable treatment. Now he begun to strike in

with the boys private like. He could talk more horse sense in a minute than you could figure out in a week, could swap the lie of any man in camp and pretty soon he had our cabin so packed Sunday mornin's listening to him that you had to git up and go outside every five minutes to git a full breath of air.

"Now the pints in favor of sich piety were two. Spruce City and the rest of the gulch was gittin' worked out, which put a serious rook on the future and the boys warn't doin' anythin' agin Providence. Furthermore and particularly the preacher served out free 'baccy and didn't pass the plate. So our meetin' got bigger every Sunday and the preacher got more influential.

"For instance he didn't talk agin the bar and faro at the Paradise. No sir! And after meetin' when he watched the boys saunter into an open switch he didn't git figits. No sir! He'd smile, say they got then habit so bad that they couldn't break it when he'd turned the place into a church. Then he'd drop down himself occasionally to see how the land lay for beginnin' operations.

"Now every time he did that, he got into an argument with Red Harvey. Red Harvey had opposed the preacher from the fust, same naturally bein' agin his interests. He felt the loss of his Sunday mornin' trade and had a weakness for short handles, meanin' the preacher, which warn't never invented for tombstones or public monuments. What he should have put to times and clean ups in his books he charged up to the preacher and swore some day he'd settle the bill. But Red Harvey was fer makin' the best of a losin' game and when he seed how influential the preacher was he speculated on a junction of interests. Sorter Sky Pilot and Hell Settler Big Combination.

"So one day when the preacher sauntered in to figure on how many pews the bar would make, Red begun:

"Calate you must be crowded up to the cabin," says he.

"How'd yer git that bright idea," says the preacher, eyein' Red, who'd never been to the meetin'.

"Well, preacher," says Red laughin', "when I see arms and legs stickin' out of a man's door and windows and chimney, I calate he must be crowded."

"So?" says the preacher. "Been sacrificin' your room for some other poor cuss. Ruther accommodatin' but come right along, Red Harvey, there's just room for another in the chimney." At which the whole crowd laughed.

"Theft would seem to put the liquor on me," says Red, knowin' the preacher's sore pint. "And I'm offerin' it," says he tryin' to git the preacher in the ditch.

"But I offered fust," says the preacher.

"Exactly the situation Sunday, you fust then me," and Red laughed at the preacher.

"Sich bein' the case, we'll let you have a turn now, the liquor bein' on you," says the preacher wakin' at the boys as he sauntered out. And Red Harvey had to set up the liquor all 'round, which warn't never his idea of amusement.

"The next interview fer formin' the Big Combination was in private and more to the point. Red's proposition was a canvass and crusade of the whole gulch fer the purpose of big Sunday meetin's to be held at the Paradise. Red calated that about three months of that diet would grow wings on every man, woman and child in them parts.

"Well you should have heard the preacher laugh. Sunday was Harvey's big day, but wasn't amountin' to much just then fer the boys had got to hangin' about the cabin all day smokin' and swappin' lies, so Red's scheme was too thin.

"I'll do better than draw trade fer you," says Grilby, "I'll buy you out."

"That's just what he did, too. He took the building and the general store took the stock and good will. Red swore he'd been driv' out of business by a sky pilot, usin' more sentiment that warn't meant for their adornment of public institutions, and swore that if he didn't get quit with the preacher when the chance come, you could fill his boots with cactus every mornin' for a week and he'd wear 'em. But strikes had located been north and Red sold out to rush with the rest of the boys to their new fields of fortune.

"Now I helped Grilby turn that saloon into a church. He was as tickled as a kid with a go-cart. Contracted a mortgage to do it proper. Had a big sign packed up from the valley, which read "Meetin' House of Spruce City" and tacked it up over the door. But we found we hadn't done enough. One mornin' a prospectin' outfit come in from the hills, pulled up natural like in front of the old Paradise and half out of their saddles slid back again, rippin' out a cuss at what stared down at 'em from above the door.

"That set Grilby to contractin' a second mortgage; paintin' up the windows and doors; puttin' on a steeple and paintin' the whole outfit yaller. That put a new look on the church all right but it put a heavy debt on it besides. People leavin' as fast as they did made that debt look bad. But the preacher didn't worry. Said when me and him was the only citterzens, Spruce City would be a respectable God fearin' community.

"Bout four years after, this yere Twin Leads Silver Mine was discovered and to see outfitts pile in here was like old times. Anythin' with a roof was snapped up quick. Now who should turn up but Red Harvey set on gettin' into bizness at the old stand. Of course he wanted the Paradise and smacked his lips at the new fixin's but Grilby would have killed himself before lettin' it go.

"Well, Red got on the trail of those mortgages and inside of a week had put ruther a flimsy look on the salvation of Spruce City. He had to pay a fancy price and allow three months fer settlement on those mortgages which we thought rather generous, same bein' due two years back.

"Red Harvey seed he had a cinch on the preacher and started right in to get quits fer past favors. Ruther enjoyed himself at the preacher's expense. Told people how he was goin' to open the Meetin' House as a palatial saloon and gambling hall, which got folks interested and they begun to watch the game.

"On the last day of the three months, Red came up to the cabin to see the preacher, a considerable crowd follerin'. Me, the preacher and Jack Kedham, an old pardner of Grilby's just out from California, was there.

"Well, preacher," says Red, "time's up and bizness is bizness. Hey you got the dust?"

"Calate I ain't exactly got it to hand, but I've got three days of grace," says the preacher cool like.

"That won't do. Got to have settlement or I'll foreclose. Maybe then," says Red, nasty like, "you'll find it agreeable to form that partnership I proposed four years ago."

"Seems to me you're pesky sure of somethin' you ain't got yet," says Grilby, eyeing Red.

"What kin you do to stop my gettin' it?" says Red, sneerin'.

"Suppose I should shoot yer," says the preacher, and the crowd opened up behind Red.

"That's ruther agin your principles," says Red, scared like.

"So! Suppose I should burn the church then," says the preacher.

"Calate you're playin' fair?" says Red.

"I might do either," thundered the preacher, gettin' up on his feet, "before seein' a house of God desecrated."

"It was evident that the crowd was with the preacher from the lynchin' remarks that was made.

"I'll give yer them days of grace, up to noon followin' Sunday, but remember that yer house of God was a saloon for eight years fust," says Red and struck out, the atmosphere not bein' good for his lungs.

"I calate the preacher was about as broken up over the prospects of losin' his church as he could be, but as I said there have been some queer runs of luck in these parts.

"Says Kedham from California, when the crowd had dispersed: "You say that church was a saloon once?"

"Yes, sir, the worst in these parts. I swore I'd make a church out of it and I've done it," says Grilby, ruther discouraged like.

"How long was it a saloon?" says Kedham.

"Eight years," says I, "roarin' all the time, and I give a few statistics.

"What yer goin' to do now, Dick," says Kedham.

"What I've never done; pass the plate, tomorrow bein' Sabbath," says the preacher.

"No, yer won't," says Kedham. "You fellers in this gulch don't seem to be up to date. Been in minin' camps all yer lives and know that yer can't handle gold dust without some slippin' away. You've seed colar on every bar you drunk at, on every table yer played at, and in the cracks of every saloon floor you walked on. What's more you've seed a tipsy miner time and agin throw away a bag of dust with a woop, etcetera, just to make out to the boys that he had more 'n he could carry with comfort. That's all waste—no account, goin' on all the time and you've never speculated where it all went to. Now when I come out from California the boys was cleanin' up underneath the old saloons and if facts are as represented, Dick, the mice in your church come pretty near rollin' in wealth. Leastways that's what happened in California."

"Well yer could have put a sack of meal into the preacher's mouth."

"Calate we'll go prospectin' down to the meetin' house," says he.

"Calate it'll be a bonanza," says Kedham, gripping the old man's hand.

"Next mornin' the congregation found the preacher breakin' the Sabbath. Him, me and Kedham had the floor ripped up, pews and such piled out the door and a big heap of dirt scraped together what was full of color. Created quite a sensation, that bonanza. Set everybody to prospectin' fer old saloons you can bet.

"Red Harvey? Oh, I paid him. He swore the preacher had the whole thing fattening up his sleeve. So did all Wisdom. And as he seed how conducive the atmosphere was to tar and feathering, and knowin' his constitution couldn't prosper under the public eye of Spruce City, Red Harvey pulled out about that time for other parts."

If You Are Sick

LET ME KNOW IT.

I wish simply your name and address—no money. Say which book you want.

I will send with it an order on your druggist to let you have 6 bottles of Dr. Shoop's Restorative. He will let you take it for a month; and if it succeeds, he will charge you \$5.50 for it. If it fails, he will send the bill to me. He will trust to your honesty, leaving the decision to you.

Such an offer as this could not be made on any other remedy. It would bankrupt the physician who tried it. But in five years I have supplied my Restorative on these terms to 550,000 people. My records show that 39 out of each 40 paid for it, because they were cured.

This remedy alone strengthens those inside nerves that operate all vital organs. It brings back the only power that can make each organ do its duty. No matter how difficult the case, it will permanently cure, unless some organic trouble like cancer makes a cure impossible.

I have spent my lifetime in preparing this remedy. I offer now to pay for all you take if it fails. I cannot better show my faith in it. Won't you merely write a postal to learn if I can help you?

Simply state which book you want, and address
Dr. Shoop, Box 304,
Racine, Wis. | Book No. 1 on Dyspepsia,
Book No. 2 on the Heart,
Book No. 3 on the Kidneys,
Book No. 4 for Women,
Book No. 5 for Men, (sealed)
Racine, Wis. | Book No. 6 on Rheumatism.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

Crime vs. Evidence.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HUBERT EDWARDS.

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MY first client was a remarkable man, one who for fertility of expedient and felicity in execution is "seldom equalled and never excelled" as the patent medicine circulars say. It is my conviction that if he had been at hand to outline the ground of defense, and had persuaded Judas Iscariot to stand a trial by jury, that individual or unsavory memory would stand before the public today without a blemish on his character.

I first met my client where I have met many since, in the county jail where he was detained on a charge of murder in the first degree. Why he chose me, the youngest member of the bar, as his counsel, I could not imagine, and it is to this day a question that I have not fully answered to my own satisfaction. He sent for me to come to the jail, and accompanying his message was a retainer that meant a barrier against the wolf for a long time in those days of my life, so I pocketed any scruples I might have against defending the perpetrator of as cold-blooded a murder as ever was committed along with the retainer, and went down to the jail to advise the prisoner. To advise—yes, that's what I went for, but I didn't do it.

The murder which was the cause of my client's (how proudly I said those words over to myself—"my client") incarceration was appar-

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COMFORT.

the plantation of George Brownell, as hand-some a six-foot planter as ever lit a pipe. And now you have all the persons connected with this story. It must not be supposed that all of these people had lived here since the beginning. I was born and raised where I still abide. Then old Gaspar Juneau came when I was a little boy. Brownell came from the lower Mississippi, and located across the river ten years later, and only six months before this thing happened which I am going to tell, Major Bonnie came to our parish, bought an undesirable plantation, which by chance adjoined that of Gabriel Juneau, and brought with him his daughter, Clarice.

It always was a strange thing to me why Gabriel should have loved her. She was beautiful but proud and cold. The beauty of an iceberg, which one admires, but does not care to approach. But he loved her, for all that I cannot make it out, and she liked him well enough, too, for he was a manly fellow, though rather slender in build, until she met Brownell. Then the current of her affection—or, rather, admiration, for that was all it was then—changed, and flowed toward the sturdy planter from across the river. Gabriel and I were like brothers, and I shall never forget the first night he went to this girl's home and found Brownell there.

I was sitting on my piazza that evening, smoking a pipe, when suddenly such a clattering broke upon my ears that I rose to my feet, no little concerned as to the cause. But directly I made out a horse and rider speeding up the road in the moonlight at a breakneck pace. They stopped at the gate, and as the man flung himself from the saddle I recognized Gabriel, although the distance was fifty or sixty yards. He dropped his bridle reins over a fence post and came rapidly up the drive, switching at his riding boots viciously, and crunching the gravel under his spurred heel. I knew that something had agitated him to an unusual degree, so I started down the steps to meet him. He took off his hat when within a few feet of me, and his dark skin had turned a bluish-gray, while his eyes shone like a cat's. I had never seen him like this. He did not see the hand I held out to him, but stopped before me and let out a string of oaths such as I had never heard.

"Hush, Gabriel," I said quietly, putting my hand on his shoulder, "mother might hear you."

He thrust his arm in mine without a word, and drew me down to the gate. Then he told me where he had been and what he had seen. The memory of his fierce and uncontrollable anger is with me as I write, for it made an imprint upon my mind which will never leave it. He had seen Brownell talking to Clarice through the library window and then such a fit of jealousy had come upon him that he was afraid to enter, but had mounted his horse again and ridden to me. I tried to calm him, but nothing which I could say or do could allay in the least his wild, jealous rage. And the next thing I knew he was in the saddle again, and was riding down the road as if pursued by devils. I had grave fears as to what his intentions might be, but judged it best not to follow him. The next morning I learned that he had come home with his horse all tremble and reeking with sweat, and had spent the night pacing his room. And that night marked the beginning of the end.

Gabriel Juneau became completely metamorphosed. He neglected his estate, he became cross and moody, and then of a sudden fell to drinking heavily. Often would I hear him clatter by my home in the dead of night, always riding like a hurricane. I foresaw something dreadful if this kept up, so one night I went to see him. His appearance alarmed me, for his frame was gaunt and bent, his cheeks were great hollows in his face and his eyes had a wild glare. He wouldn't listen to me, but would shift the subject whenever I touched upon his affection for Clarice Bonnie. I tried time and again to remonstrate with him, for my tender feeling for the poor lad was genuine, until he told me, almost roughly, that if I had come to talk on that subject I had better leave him, as his mind was made up and no one could change it. This statement was rather mystifying, but then I could see plainly that he wasn't himself so I left him reluctantly, begging him to come to see me soon. He came one night not long after, and my hand shakes now when I think of it—may the Mother of Heaven have mercy on him!

About a week after this it became generally known throughout the parish that George Brownell and Clarice Bonnie were soon to become man and wife. A chill swept over me when the news was brought to me, and all sorts of unformed fears rose up in my heart. I feared that this would be the last straw for the strained mind of my poor friend, for his peculiar actions were already beginning to excite comment. I had not seen him for a fortnight, and things moved along quietly enough until a week before the wedding. Then Gabriel's head black man come over to me one morning with the news that his master had locked himself up in the house, after having given stringent orders that he was not to be disturbed. I advised the fellow to leave his master alone and obey orders, but told him furthermore that I would ride over the next day and see what I could do with him. I went, but could not gain admittance to the house. Gabriel talked to me from behind a closed door, and told me that he would positively see no one until a week had gone; that he was master of that plantation, and would do as he pleased. So there was nothing for me to do but go back home with a heavy heart. The rest of the week passed uneventfully; preparations for the wedding went forward speedily, and Gabriel Juneau never showed his face. The good people around who knew of his hopeless passion pitied him, and said that grief and shame had caused him to seek seclusion. I did not say anything for my mind was not at rest.

I was to be a guest at Major Bonnie's home the night of the wedding, but as I was always rather methodical in my movements, it was a trifling late when I mounted my horse and started down the driveway towards the road. And then a sound greeted my ears which actually caused me to shiver and turn cold all over, although it was a moonlight, summer night. First a wild, mirthless laugh was borne to me on the breeze, immediately followed by the noise of a horse's rapidly galloping feet. It was the wedding night of Clarice Bonnie, and Gabriel Juneau was abroad once more. At the gate opening onto the pike I stopped, and waited. Directly I saw them thundering up the road, horse and rider flitting through moonlight and shadow. It was indeed Gabriel. He drew his horse up in front of me, and with such suddenness that the beast's hoofs sent a shower of small stones rattling against the gate.

"Hail friend Auguste!" he shouted, waving his hand in the air, joyously. "You invited me to come to see you, and I am here! But I cannot tarry, for this is my wedding night, and soon my bride's soft arms shall rock me to sleep, and they shall choke the life out of George Brownell and Clarice Bonnie! Come and see! Come and see!" Then with a crazy laugh ending in a shout, he turned his horse and started back towards the Bonnie homestead.

I followed, for his mind was gone I knew, but I did not know what his wild words portended. It was a hard race, but I overtook him before two miles were covered, and though I shouted questions into his ear as we sped along, his only answer was a maniac's laughter. Presently we came to where the road forked, one branch leading to the Bonnie plantation, and the other going on towards the river. Here he drew up, and as I reined in also, he urged his horse close to mine and whispered:

"Speed on to the wedding, but don't tell them! I go to summon the bride! Together we shall all float to eternity!"

Then he was gone, his horse headed for Mississippi.

I sat stunned for a moment, then gradually the comprehension of his awful plot came to me. There had been a great deal of rain the past two weeks, the river was high, and I knew that the levee had been strengthened at several weak points that very day with sacks of dirt. This madman was going to make a break in the levee, and let that angry tide pour through the valley where Major Bonnie's home stood!

It was too late to stop him, for he had left me with the speed of lightning. With a groan I dug my spurs into my horse's flanks, and rode to give the alarm. The house was brilliantly lighted when I came in sight of it, and horses and carriages were scattered about the grounds. Through them all I dashed, right up to the front door, and flinging my reins to a frightened negro, I burst into the parlor, and in the midst of the marriage service shouted these words:

"Fly! Fly quickly! Gabriel Juneau is mad, and has broken the levee! Fly to high ground, in God's name!"

Then was such a turmoil as I have never since seen, though my head is white as I write this. Brownell seized his swooning bride with an oath choked in his throat, and bore her bodily from the house. Then followed a mad flight from the oncoming water; we could hear its dull roar drawing nearer as we sped up the road to safety. Not one was overtaken by the flood, but my poor friend alone was lulled to rest in the arms of the bride he had summoned.

The Tramp Hero of the B. S. & W.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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such a thing as not being detected.

The seven o'clock accommodation train pulled out of Hampton on time the night of March 7, 1894. It had been raining all day and there was a slippery rail ahead, and though it had stopped raining, a heavy fog made it impossible to see anything a hundred feet away, so that taken all in all it was an unpleasant night to be on the irons.

The train had just left Hampton behind when the conductor passed through the half dozen coaches, marching a wretched-looking specimen of humanity to the smoking-car in the rear.

"Caught him on the front platform of the baggage-car, boys," he said, speaking to two of the train-crew; "just keep a sharp eye on him until we reach Lancaster and I'll hand him over to the police."

"Stealing a ride, eh?" he continued, shaking the tramp until the latter's teeth chattered; "did you think we run these trains for the benefit of fellows of your stamp?"

"I—I was just goin' home, boss," said the tramp, pulling himself together, "I thought—"

"Well, you're going home now, all right," interrupted the conductor, "it will seem real homelike down to the county-house."

The brakemen and passengers roared with merriment. The tramp buried himself in his ragged overcoat.

Meanwhile, the train was making slow progress up the long grade leading to Hamilton. Five, ten, fifteen minutes were lost, and as the train started down the grade that ended at the junction, where the accommodation left the main line, the engineer let the engine out, well aware that the Lightning Express, seven-thirty out of Hampton, was fast gaining on them, and anxious to get out of the way of the express he urged his engine to the limit.

From time to time a blunderer crops up from among the employees of every railroad. On the seventh of March he turned up at the junction, where the accommodation left the main line, the engineer let the engine out, well aware that the Lightning Express, seven-thirty out of Hampton, was fast gaining on them, and anxious to get out of the way of the express he urged his engine to the limit.

The telegram, however, had beaten the Special by more than three hours, and there was a carriage on hand ready to complete the long journey.

"Phillips, that's right," said the driver, springing into the carriage, "their place is two miles from here. Have been over there and told them Tom was coming home; told them they'd better get a bed ready, he had met with an accident."

There was an aged man standing at the gate when the farmhouse was reached, joined an instant later by a tottering old woman.

"It's goin' on eleven year since he left here,"

said the old man, "and we ain't heard much of him since, but I told wife he'd come back sometime, though I didn't reckon on just this."

"Tom, can't you speak to your poor mother?"

said the wife, following the doctor and conductor as they bore the body into the house.

"Tom, just a word!"

"He is going fast," said the physician, as they laid him on the bed in the front chamber,

threw open the throttle and started at express speed down the main line, hoping to win in the long race that he knew was before him.

As the train thundered over the switch, the truth dawned on the conductor and brakemen. They knew that the engineer of the express would pay no heed to the red-light signals, now that the junction was passed, as that train had the right of way. They realized that their train would have to contend with a superior engine, but at the same time, their engine was drawing less than half the number of coaches that the express was laboring under, and it was a much mooted question which would win.

Within the cab of the engine a grim battle was being waged, and the manner in which the fireman shoveled coal into the fire-box would have opened the eyes of many a fireman. Several times the engineer scrawled a message intended for the agent at some station through which they passed, and tying it about a lump of coal, hurled it at the windows of the ticket-office, but each time it missed the mark, and so the train plunged through the fog, the express gradually cutting down the interval that separated the two trains.

"There is just one thing to be done," said the conductor, the roar of the express sounding unpleasantly close at hand, "get the passengers out of this car and cut it loose from the rest of the train. One of us must stay aboard and manage the brake, and it means death."

The tramp had been listening and understood something of the horror of the situation, and while the men were settling the question in their own minds which should remain, he acted.

"Get into the next car, all of you, and give me a lantern," he said, springing to his feet, "I might as well die tonight as any time; cut the car loose and be lively about it, too; I'll attend to the rest."

Thirty seconds later the car was empty and the conductor was drawing the coupling-pin. As he regaled his feet and for an instant held the air-brake connections, he shook hands with the tramp.

"Good-bye, old man," he shouted above the roar of the train, "you're a hero."

On the rear platform the tramp was clutching the brake, ready to ease up the instant the headlight of the express showed itself. He could hear it coming and in less than a minute he made out a luminous spot in the thick bank of fog that hung about the car. For an instant the glow increased and then, like some cyclopean monster, the great mogul engine of the express shot out of the fog, bearing down on the flying car with terrible swiftness. Then the engineer of the express saw the lantern which the tramp was frantically waving, but though he reversed his engine and applied the brakes the entire length of the train, it skidded over the slippery rails until it ploughed its way full through the car.

Somehow the heavy engine managed to keep the irons, and when it finally stopped, the wrecked car was within a hundred feet of Elderton Station.

Buried deep under the splintered timbers of the car, they found the tramp, no, not the tramp, but the hero, and tenderly they bore his crushed form into the station.

"I wasn't hurtin' nobody out there behind the engine," said the poor fellow, looking up into the faces of those that were bending over him, "just thought I'd go home and see the folks; ain't seen 'em for close onto ten years."

Meanwhile the accommodation train had come to a stop two miles down the road, and shortly the conductor reached the scene of the wreck.

"Have you found out who this man is, or where he belongs?" he asked looking down at the crushed form.

"Said something about Parker River," said a physician who chanced to be aboard the express, "then he muttered some such name as Phillips or Phelps; didn't quite catch it."

"Man saved my train and the Lightning Express. He is dying; has people at Parker River; Phillips or Phelps, the name. May live a few hours; what shall we do with him?"

The above dispatch was received by the superintendent of the road five minutes after the return of the conductor, and three minutes later the following telegram was received by the conductor:

"Special on the way. See that you reach Parker River by midnight."

It does not take an engineer very long to cover twenty miles when he is racing with death and has word from the dispatcher that he has a clear rail ahead. He may be cautious, perhaps nervous, when there is a train-load of passengers behind the tender and there is a doubt about the road, but give him an opportunity to let out his engine, the dispatcher backing him with imperative orders to make his best time, and he will make the rails sing.

In precisely twenty minutes from the time that the engineer of the Special received his orders, he brought his engine and solitary car to a stop of three minutes, during which the ragged hero was tenderly brought aboard, and as the Special pulled out of the station it carried the physician and the conductor who had wired the facts to the superintendent.

There were two hundred and ten miles to be made in the next three hours and twenty minutes, if the superintendent's orders were carried out, a little better than a mile a minute; and the manner in which the engineer and fireman annihilated distance the first half hour, showed that they intended to carry out the order to the letter. At ten o'clock the Special was whirling through Royalton eighty-seven miles away; at eleven o'clock it thundered over the crossing at Rochester, one hundred and forty-eight miles away; and just as the town clock at Parker River was striking for midnight, the Special was pounding over the switches at Parker River Station.

The telegram, however, had beaten the Special by more than three hours, and there was a carriage on hand ready to complete the long journey.

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said the wife, following the doctor and conductor as they bore the body into the house.

"Tom, just a word!"

"He is going fast," said the physician, as they laid him on the bed in the front chamber,

Gures

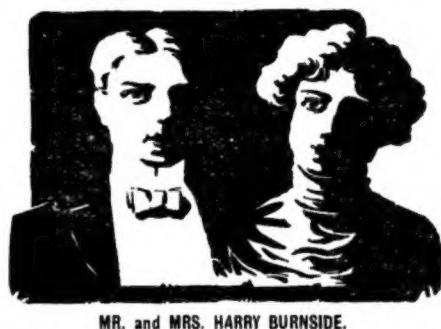
Drunkards

Secretly

Free Package of the Only Successful Cure Known for Drunkenness Sent to All Who Send Name and Address.

It Can be Put Secretly into Food or Coffee and Quickly Cures the Drink Habit.

Few men become drunkards from choice or inclination—all welcome release from the awful habit. Golden Specific will cure the worst habitual drunkard. This wonderful remedy can be administered by wife or daughter, in food, tea, coffee or milk, without causing the slightest



MR. and MRS. HARRY BURNSIDE.

suspicion. Its cure is sure, without harmful results to the system. Many a home is now happy by the use of Golden Specific. "My husband got into a habit of taking a drink with the boys on his way home," says Mrs. Harry Burnside. "After awhile he came home drunk frequently. He soon lost his position and I had to make a living for both of us and the little children. At times he tried to sober up, but the habit was too strong for him and then he would drink harder than ever. I heard of Golden Specific and sent for a free package. The treatment cured him. I put it in his coffee and he never knew it at all. He regained his old position and now we are happy in our little home again. I hope you will send Golden Specific to every woman that has suffered as I have, and save her loved ones from the drunkard's grave."

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 2104 Glen Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, and he will mail you a free package of Golden Specific in a plain wrapper, accompanied by full directions how to use it. Enough of the remedy is sent in each free package to give you an opportunity to witness its marvelous effect on those who are slaves to drink.

Do not delay. You cannot tell what may happen to the man who drinks, and you would never forgive yourself for waiting.

"just come close, he may say something before he goes."

Suddenly the dying man's eyes opened, and for an instant he looked from one to another as though unable to understand his surroundings. Then his eyes rested on his mother's face.

"I—I—come—home—to—to—see you—mother—"

"He is dead," said the doctor, placing his hand over the heart that had just ceased to beat.

"Your son was a hero, if there ever was one," said the conductor. "Two hundred miles down the road he gave his life for two train-loads of passengers. He is an honor to you."

WANTED

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.

The play is the thing in these modern days, and the playwriter finds a larger public than the preacher or the author. Henry Arthur Jones is one of the most successful of modern playwriters. His daring plays have brought him literary, artistic and financial success. This middle-aged Englishman is a quiet blue eyed unobtrusive individual whose appearance seems radically opposed to the aggressive spirit he shows in his work. Among the plays that have won success on both sides the Atlantic are: Mrs. Dane's Defense, Saints and Sinners, The Case of Rebellious Susan and The Manoeuvres of Jane. Mr. Jones has been accused of attempting to educate the public with his plays. He boldly says there is but one thing worth representing in plays and that is the heart, the soul, the passions, the emotions of men. This his plays do and this it is that has awakened the wrath of the critics. Jones was born in a little village near London and after a brief schooling was forced to commence the struggle of life when he was but thirteen years of age. For five years he fretted under the uncongenial tasks of commercial life. Then a brief visit to a London theater opened a new world to the country lad. From that magic moment, the world of imagination spread before him. For nine years longer he was forced to continue the struggle for bread in the work that daily grew more uncongenial. During the time he wrote a novel that was rejected. The substance of the story is in the popular play of the Silver King. In 1878 his first play was acted in London. It had only scant recognition but his next play was a great success and Henry Arthur Jones had "arrived." Wealth and fame have come to the man who believes that the theater may be made the most powerful of educational factors. He said in a recent interview, "Religion, politics, science, education, philosophy are likely to be dealt with on the English stage during the next generation." This is his most earnest thought concerning the future of the stage. It follows that those who believe the stage is merely an amusement or diversion are not taken with Jones' plays. His constituency is the thoughtful cultured portion of the English speaking public. What effect the craze for the dramatization of popular novels will have upon the vogue of playwrights remains to be seen.

A new animal unknown to scientists has been discovered in Central Africa. This strange beast has been named the Okapi. It is the size of a large stag. It has two hoofs like the giraffe. The Okapi has a curiously striped skin something like a zebra, in fact the hind quarters and legs seem like those of the horse or zebra. Its brilliant coloring shading from deep black to cream makes its skin much sought by the natives. The name is the one used by the tribes of Central Africa. Sir Harry Johnson made an unsuccessful expedition into the Congo forests after the animal. The skin and skull of a newly captured Okapi were afterwards sent to him by some Belgian officers who procured the animal from the natives. It is not improbable that the dense forests of the Congo may contain other animals unknown to civilization.

A prominent Hawaiian newspaper makes a bitter review of the three years of American rule in that island and declares that President Dole is responsible for the failure to establish American ideas. It says of him that born under a monarchy, holding office under that monarchy he rebelled against it, not for the purpose of establishing liberty but for the benefit of an oligarchy. This is a specimen of the bitter abuse and criticism that has surrounded Sanford B. Dole ever since he assumed the direction of the government of Hawaii in 1893. He was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at the time of the overthrow of the monarchy and became president of the provisional government then created. The native population of Hawaii have always been bitter

against Dole and have also opposed annexation. President Dole was always anxious to have the turbulent island republic declared a part of the United States, and during the seven years from 1893 to 1900, he bent all his energies to that end. He is no tyro in political matters and was able to defeat several schemes for the overthrow of the government that he headed. When the territory was finally annexed, he was appointed as governor. The protests and abuse that had followed him for seven years were intensified by his success and many believe that he would be glad to retire from the position were it not that his enemies might feel that he retreated under fire. President Dole is an old man but there seems no lessening of the fire and energy that has made him the most prominent figure in Hawaii for many years.



Henry Merwin Shrady is a young man of twenty-eight, who has won distinction as a sculptor. The great figures of the moose and the buffalo at the Pan-American exhibition mark his first recognition by artists as one of them. Mr. Shrady is the son of the famous New York physician, and the brother-in-law of Edwin Gould. His family wished him to study medicine, but he disliked the idea and after a course at Columbia he studied law. A severe illness prevented him from immediate practice of his profession and he became the manager of a match factory for his millionaire brother-in-law. He had all his life had a desire to paint but he received no encouragement and never had an hour's instruction in art in his life. He used the few leisure hours left from business and his holidays in studying painting. His taste turned towards animals and he spent much time in the Zoological Park of New York studying the animals. It was here that he found his models for the moose and the buffalo. He took some of his sketches to a famous New York artist who at once assured him that he would soon make art his profession. His wife sent his painting of their pet dog to the Academy of Design. It was accepted for exhibition and also sold. A painting of pet kittens was also accepted. His sketches for this had been made on bits of paper carried in his pocket while on the way to business. He would stop outside the windows of dealers in cats and sketch the kittens shown. He found it very difficult to paint in the leisure time at his disposal as the artificial light spoiled the coloring. For this reason he attempted sculpture. His first success was a battery going into action. The gun carriage and harness were copied in the Seventh Regiment Armory, while the horses were modeled from his own saddle horse. This was cast in Russian bronze but in small molds. It was this work that caused him to be asked to send models of heroic size to Buffalo. To do this work he rose at half past five in the morning and went to the New Jersey studio of a well-known sculptor. Mr. Shrady's success is a wonderful illustration of the power of genius. With no time and no instructions, his talent forced him to surmount obstacles and become known not as a business man but as an artist. Mr. Shrady has been invited to exhibit at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. His pieces have been war pieces, among them being one called "Saving the Colors" and the "Empty Saddle". There are some practical lessons to be learned from Mr. Shrady's success.

Dr. Daniel Coit Gilman is about to organize the great educational work at Washington that will place the stores of government material in science, art and literature at the disposal of the colleges of the United States. The great work will fulfill the purposes of the university that Washington planned. The work promises a larger field of usefulness than the one held so long and so ably by Dr. Gilman. He ranks as one of the foremost educators of the nation while his profound scholarship and executive ability are recognized the world over. Dr. Gilman is a graduate of Yale in the class of '52.



Sir Thomas Lipton has won a place in the affections of the American people. The great gold loving-cup that was sent him after Shamrock II. was defeated, was an expression of admiration for the plucky Irishman. In many re-

For four years after graduation he pursued his studies at home and abroad. In 1856 he became secretary of the Yale Scientific while the needs of the institution had largely increased. His able manner of dealing with discouraging circumstances stamped him anew as a most efficient and resourceful executive officer. Dr. Gilman was offered the superintendency of the public schools of New York City but declined the position. He has held many public positions, among the most important being his place as a commissioner on the boundary line dispute between Venezuela and British Columbia. Dr. Gilman is a well-known writer on educational topics and has published many books. His selection as Director of the Washington Memorial Institution places him in a most prominent position. The work has a limitless outlook and Dr. Gilman is the man to recognize and develop its possibilities. In 1872 he was called to the presidency of the University of California. In 1875, when Johns Hopkins University was organized, Dr. Gilman was appointed as its president. He held that position until his retirement this year. It was at Johns Hopkins that Dr. Gilman reached the height of his reputation. In an incredibly short time he placed the institution at the head of the great universities in scholarship and influence. During the last years of his presidency Dr. Gilman was obliged to encounter many financial problems, as the securities from which the university derived its income had greatly depreciated in value.

Sir Francis Laking is one of three physicians who have been appointed to care for the physical well-being of King Edward. He was the first physician to accompany the king out of England. He was doubtless chosen on account of his social talents as well as his skill as a practitioner. Sir Francis believes thoroughly in the influence of a cheerful mind and lively manner upon the health. He is a great collector of curios and his first move is to interest his would-be patient in these somewhat novel furnishings of a doctor's office. His son is an acknowledged authority upon old furniture and King Edward has frequently sought his advice in regard to alterations in the royal homes. Sir Francis is very free from general "fads" or peculiar ideas concerning his profession. He does, however, talk much of the conservation of energy and claims the best way to rest is to go to bed. This, he claims, would renew energy much more rapidly than the hurry of a rush to new scenes. Sir Francis is generally esteemed for his lively, interesting conversation which seems as effective as medicine.

This is an age of magnificent giving. Millions are given away annually and the man who gives it is one of the most common features of American life. Nevertheless the personality of the giver is always of interest. Dr. D. K. Parsons of Chicago has given away nearly three millions within the last three years. His gifts are to colleges and educational institutions. He always attaches conditions to his gifts so that a certain sum must be raised before his gift is available. Dr. Parsons refuses to be regarded as a philanthropist and refuses to read the hundreds of begging letters that he receives. He says in explanation of his giving that as an old man who has labored nearly eighty years, he realizes that he could not carry his wealth with him but wishes to see it serve a useful purpose. He then commenced giving his wealth to small colleges that were centers of culture and light in the sections where they were. Dr. Parsons says that he never spent twenty dollars foolishly in his life. He has never attended a horse-race or football game and has been inside a theater but once. He declares that he has no benevolence in him and that this can be seen by looking at his face. He has been so annoyed at the publicity given his gifts that hereafter he will distribute his fortune in secret.

Sir Thomas Lipton has won a place in the affections of the American people. The great gold loving-cup that was sent him after Shamrock II. was defeated, was an expression of admiration for the plucky Irishman. In many re-

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spects the story of Sir Thomas' life reads like a page out of the life of many an American millionaire. Some of this energy was borrowed in America for Sir Thomas did not come to America the first time with a famous racing boat and with a steam yacht with a party of distinguished visitors. He landed here forty years ago as a stowaway in the steerage of a transatlantic liner. He left with one idea in his twelve-year-old head and that was the American methods of hustling. He succeeded in coaxing his father, who was a poor workman in Glasgow, to give him his savings. With the four hundred dollars thus gained he started a little store whose main staple was tea. From this humble beginning has grown a fortune of at least fifty millions. The small proprietor of the small shop is the largest tea grower in Ceylon, a pork packer in Chicago, a manufacturer of ginger ale in Dublin, and a candy maker in London, with warehouses dotted all over the globe and thousands of men in his employ. Five hundred and twenty stores have sprung from that little Glasgow shop. All of the money that Sir Thomas made at first was spent in advertising his wares. His interest in yachting has been an expensive venture. It is estimated that six hundred thousand dollars would no more than cover the expenses connected with the building and racing of Shamrock I. and Shamrock II. One of Sir Thomas's expressions of advice is, "Saving is the first great principle of all success."

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Winter Sports in Minnesota.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



URING the long cold winter months in Minnesota, where the thermometer often registers from 15 degrees to 30 degrees below zero for several weeks at a time, and where the snow plow is in almost daily use, where even the brilliant mid-day sun fails to temper the crisp cold atmosphere, enthusiasm in out of door sports knows no bounds. After a day of comparatively moderate weather, when a slow rain has gradually changed into a heavy snow storm which has left the entire country round about covered with a firm white crust, the scene is one of unparalleled beauty.

In one of the principal cities of the state, a wide avenue winds in continuous curves for a couple of miles, then extends onward in a straight line to the banks of the famous Mississippi river. Many superb residences line this beautiful thoroughfare on either side, real homes, designed for the comfort of their occupants as well as artistic effect, and in which the most cordial hospitality is extended. On looking from the doorstep of one of these attractive houses, early on a winter's morning through arched trees whose snow laden boughs glisten in the bright sunlight, over the snow covered lawns and up the long still avenue as far as the eye can reach, one hesitates to step out, to be the first to sully the perfect purity of the dazzling white expanse, to break the complete stillness which nature has assumed. In an hour or two what a different aspect will be presented. This same stately street will be the center of life and motion, handsome equipages of all descriptions, lined with luxurious furs and drawn by prancing thoroughbreds, will fly along. More modest turnouts will also be seen, numerous cutters and smaller vehicles, and then will come the "bobs," filled with school children, laughing and chattering and "holding on" as the long double-runners skim easily over the frozen snow.

"Bobbing" in the west differs greatly from coasting in the eastern states; in the former locality the bob, often eighteen or twenty feet long, is drawn by horses, and not generally used for sliding down hills, as in New England

and New York. To those who enjoy out door sports in winter time there are few more enjoyable amusements than a bobbing party of some twelve or fourteen guests, all congenial spirits. Let us go back two or three years, and imagine ourselves with such a party, assembled at the home of some charming young hostess, about to start for the

Carnival. Much gaiety is here, and the young people are of the representative families of the city. Such an array of colors. Here is a bright young fellow clad from head to toe in blue and white, another by his side in deep contrast wears orange and black, while there is a merry maiden all in scarlet, her toque resting on her dark brown hair in a most coquettish manner, its large tassel tossing to and fro with every motion of her shapely head. Her arms are full of tin trumpets decorated with colored ribbons, which she is distributing to the guests. Each guest is presented with one of these horns before starting, and is expected to do his or her share in "blowing", this being one of the features of a bobbing party. All are in good spirits, and one couple have skates hung over their shoulders, for though the Carnival offers many attractions, not the least among these is the excellent skating offered.

Soon a loud gong is heard, and the arrival of the bob is announced. A general exit is quickly made, for all are eager to start. The bob is long and spacious, well cushioned, with a comfortable foot-rail, and a driver's seat in front. Three high-spirited horses stand nervously pawing the ground, made impatient to be off by the clear frosty air. There is a great scramble for seats, some preferring to sit sideways and some astride. Large robes are carried, but not usually needed, for each one is well protected from the cold by extra clothing. Moccasins are generally worn over two or three pairs of heavy woolen hose, unless one anticipates skating upon arriving at the Carnival.

Amid such cheering, blowing of horns, and ringing of the gong, with one of which a bob is usually provided, the horses start away and the party is soon skimming along at a lightning pace, horses galloping, snow flying, and the air made musical with song and laughter.

A sharp corner is turned, a scream is heard, and a quick stop is made. Some one leaned the wrong way, and has rolled off. Two or three of the party run back to rescue the unfortunate individual, and find her just rising out of the deep snow, laughing heartily and vigorously brushing her clothes. Soon they have caught up with the others and a fresh start is made.

In a few minutes the more unfrequented streets are reached, where snow drifts are piled high. The road is uncertain here, and it is considered rather tame if the bob is not overturned at least once during the trip, for every one enjoys a good tumble into the soft snow, and rarely does an accident prove serious.

Many lights are now seen in the distance, and glittering in the moonlight the Ice Palace rises before us from its foundation of snow like a huge berg towering skyward in a northern sea. A closer approach reveals a perfect fairyland. A high stockade built of huge blocks of ice,

clear as crystal, with round towers, encloses the whole. The entrance, a broad archway brilliantly illuminated by electric lights, opens invitingly to all comers; those in Carnival costume, that is, in toboggan suits and toques, are admitted free, while the locker on in civilian dress pays a small sum for the privilege of entering.

Once inside one is bewildered. So many attractions offer themselves, a choice is hard to make. Our party divides, three or four hasten to the toboggan chutes and are soon rapidly descending the steep incline and shooting over the well iced track; others have gone into the cafe and are refreshing the inner man with hot drinks and sandwiches, for the Minnesota air is at all times conducive to good appetites. Four of the girls and men are satisfying their curiosity in regard to the Indians, for several Sioux are encamped here, inside the grounds, and much interest is taken in their tepee or wigwam. By bending almost to the ground one is able to enter the tepee, and can soon make friends with these good-natured Redmen by offering them a few cigarettes, which courtesy is often returned by the offer of a pipeful of their native tobacco. There are Indians too, fantastically gotten up in paint and feathers, who dance various war dances on an open stage constructed for this purpose.

After fully enjoying the many different entertainments provided by the management, our party gathers together once more, and among the last to leave are the two enthusiastic skaters, who have been content to cut graceful curves on the glassy ice throughout the entire evening without as much as a thought of other amusement. We all now wander to the curling rink and there watch the progress of this interesting Scotch game which has taken such a hold in this country, and whose Minnesota headquarters on Raspberry Island is the scene of many a famous "Bonspiel." After this we visit the hockey game which is going on, and then as our chaperone urges us to the bob again we leave very reluctantly, though knowing that the fun is not yet ended. We take our seats once more and are soon speeding toward the house of our hostess, where a substantial lunch awaits us. Here we find a table most temptingly spread and never dainties more appreciated. After we have done justice to the delicious repast the bob is again called for, and amid levetakings and expressions of gratitude to our hostess we take our seats and are driven to our homes, there to enjoy the profound slumber which our evening spent in the cold northern air has assured.

The large quantity of snow which falls in the Northwest often remains on the ground for months, and during that time snow-shoeing is a source of pleasure to both young and old. Many clubs are formed which are devoted

wholly to this amusement and long runs are frequently taken, the long, swinging gait being soon acquired. Fort Snelling is often the objective point, and it is well worth miles of snow-shoe travel to view this historic place by moonlight, as is often done.

On a high bluff overlooking the river with its picturesque shores and numerous islands, commanding a view of many miles, stands this noble old fort. Unpretentious in appearance, but bearing signs of having served its country well, it survived the period of strife and struggle and has earned the right to stand in peace, as a monument to those early pioneers whose strong characters and indomitable wills subdued the natives and gave to the white man a new land.

Owing perhaps, to the large Swedish and Norwegian element in Minnesota, the use of the Scandinavian ski has become general. Exciting contests in jumping are held, and they are also used for traveling over the deep snow on level ground, where a long pole is used to push one forward in long, swinging strokes.

In jumping matches, the contestants start from the brow of a suitable hill and descend at a rapid pace, the speed increasing every instant. About one third of the way down the slope the "jump" is arranged; a low trestle, or else a lot of faggots covered with snow is placed here to form a level spot from which to leap, and on reaching this point, a spring is made by the runner; for a moment he is seen standing apparently in mid-air, then as he gradually descends, he raises the heels of his skis, and lands easily on the snowy surface. Usually the jumpers land on both feet at once, though the more skillful performers place one foot before the other. The jumper then continues to shoot the decline with terrific force, and on reaching the bottom by leaning to one side or the other, he curves round and is able to make a full stop.

Some phenomenal jumps are made by experts, often from one hundred and ten to one hundred and twenty-five feet in length, and the sport has become very popular and has many devotees.

Of all the winter sports, the most exciting is ice-boating. Here it is that one's nerves are put to their full test; here the adventurous spirit, while the timid person appears at a great disadvantage. With the ice as smooth as a mirror, and a good brisk wind blowing, nothing more thrilling can be imagined than to lie on one of these boats, and to feel one's self being carried along at the rate of a mile a minute, over the glassy surface of some frozen lake.

On White Bear Lake, about fifteen miles from St. Paul, this sport is much indulged in. Often one of the many handsome cottages is opened for a day to receive a party from one of the neighboring cities. Huge fires are built in the great fireplaces, which most of these cottage possess, and after a few trips upon the ice-boat have been made the less enthusiastic of the party return to the house, glad to warm themselves and "talk it over" before starting out again to brave the winter's blast, which is here so keenly felt.

The Carnival generally closes with the storm

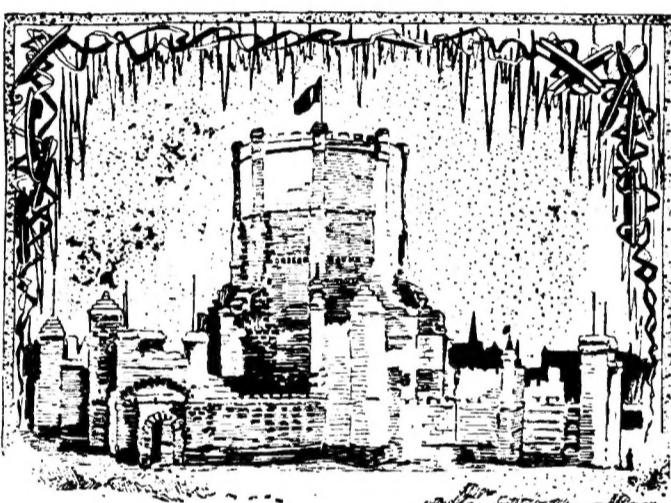
ing of the Ice Palace. Words are inadequate to describe this magnificent spectacle. Thousands of dollars are spent in fire-works, and for a time the winter evening is converted into a veritable "Fourth of July." On this occasion, the numerous snow-shoe clubs assemble at some central spot and march in long procession to the Carnival grounds, where they are assigned places. Some are put in a position of defence to guard the palace and some attack it from outside the walls. All carry rockets and Roman candles and at a given signal the storming begins. A volley from the invading party begins the attack, then comes a perfect rain of fire from the defenders, and for many moments a mock battle is carried on, the whole vicinity appearing as if some meteoric shower was descending with terrible fury upon the earth.

After a short struggle, the defence is apparently abandoned, and the actual storming begins. From all directions, and from every window, door and tower comes such a blaze of illumination that all comparisons lose their significance, and one seems transported to some unknown country, where warring elements no longer contend together, but rather unite, to form a perfect picture of light and beauty.

An Old Magazine.



A unique magazine is called the Star of Hope. It is published bi-weekly and circulated among the convicts in Auburn, Sing Sing, and the Clinton prisons. All the editorial as well as the mechanical work on the magazine is done by the convicts themselves, who take a very lively interest in their publication. With but few exceptions, the magazine circulates entirely within the prison walls, yet nearly five thousand copies of each edition are circulated. The contents of the magazine is made up of editorials, many of which are very able, current news and reviews, and a humorous column. Among the convicts the Star of Hope is regarded as a most welcome relief from the weary round of prison life.



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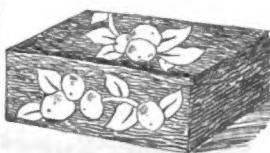
men of public interest at the time used to assemble at the taverns along the public highways, and sit before the huge fireplaces smoking and telling their stories, it was customary often for them to burn some sketch, or trite saying, or autograph with a red hot poker into the wood work around the hearth. From this then, perhaps, arose the term "poker work" often applied to this art of burning wood and leather.

In 1884 in Munich, productions of this work were first exhibited, but the process of obtaining such results was kept a secret, known only to a few artists.

Immediately all the shop windows displayed an instrument with which they claimed the work was done.

A metal style encased in wood similar in appearance to a lead pencil, which was heated over an alcohol lamp, was used for some time after for tracing designs; but this was so tedious and so imperfect that it was dispensed with.

Shortly after it became known generally that professionals employed a device which doctors used in operating, in which a platinum point or style was kept incandescent by an electric current. Finally benzine was employed as the heating agent, and this brings us to the present instrument in use all over our country, at least, by artists and artisans alike for it does not require the power of originating a design in order to be successful in this art. There are so many good outline drawings one can trace, and much of our best work in this line is done by those who are merely able to reproduce that which artists have drawn. The instrument consists of two one-half inch rubber tubes about a foot and a half long, each extending in opposite directions from a four ounce bottle, tightly corked, containing benzine or gasoline. At the end of one tube (which is operated with the left hand) are two bulbs; the smaller one being squeezed forces air into the larger one which acts as sort of a retort or holder so that the force may be



JEWEL BOX.

point is held over an alcohol lamp or gas burner or even the heat of an ordinary candle will serve to heat red hot this point, all the while squeezing the bulb with the left hand; this forces the gas arising from the benzine along into the point and keeps it in a constant red heat. Then the operator applies the point to his design and an outline is burned just as it would be traced by a pencil and almost as simply; after the design is well worked in, in order to set it off, a background has to be made for it and this is accomplished in various ways; by drawing the point in lines slowly over the surfaces of the wood very close together, heavy ridges are made which produce a very wavy effect. Often wavy lines are appropriate, or dots, produced by touching lightly the surface of the wood with the point of the instrument. All sorts and kinds of backgrounds are effective and interesting and may be worked up by the originality of the operator. A very delicate and pretty finish for the article then, is to color with water-color paints the design in appropriate colors and finally either shellac or wax is applied as a finishing touch. In using the latter a regular prepared floor wax is the proper thing, applied very lightly and polished when dry with a soft brush.



NUT BOWL.

In wood, all kinds of very useful as well as ornamental articles may be made in a very short time and with very little expense. The principal cost is the instrument which is never less than five dollars, and usually just that price.

Among other things which may be decorated are small boxes, round and square, picture frames, small round chopping trays, pipe racks, book racks, canoe paddles and salad forks and spoons. Out of these things mentioned a few could be made by the operator himself which would lessen the expense of the article. And many beautiful bits of household furniture such as small chairs and stools are very simply made and very easily decorated and may be seen in many of our large furniture stores exhibited as their most delicate and newest bits of craft. The Indians taught us that "poker work" on leather was an art in itself, and skins of all kinds may be crudely decorated to make novel ornaments, such as frames for pictures slashed and burned on the edges, magazine covers and card cases and even book covers form a more delicate but very practical branch of this art. In fact even plush and velvet have been successfully burned. But while every kind of wood may be used (except resinous pine) hard wood is the best. In this, holly, maple and cherry lead, and many wonderful and valuable compositions may be made if one

is only able to select and adapt suitable designs. Many attempts have been made to substitute another cheaper metal for the platinum point now in use but thus far they have been unsuccessful for practical purposes; until this point does make place for one of steel or iron or some inexpensive material the cost of the instrument will be practically the only expense to this very attractive art.

Hall-Marked Plate.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

N books one hundred and two hundred years old we frequently come across the word "plate," in speaking of precious metals. The term is rather confusing to Americans, who call by this name articles plated with silver or gold.

The old meaning was simply silver money, and was derived from the Spanish word for silver, "plate". Later the term was applied in England to all articles of silver, (with the exception of money.)

Those of us who are fortunate enough to possess silver articles of old English make have no doubt noticed the devices and marks stamped upon them, but few of us have ever thought of the significance of these marks. These "hall-marks" as they are called are quite interesting.

Six hundred years ago, the workers in precious metals decided that their wares should be marked in some particular way, in order that their customers might have some guarantee that the goods they bought were genuine. Accordingly they formed a guild, known as Goldsmith's Hall and caused laws to be passed forbidding the sale of silver plate that did not bear the "hall-mark". Goldsmith's Hall flourishes at the present, though the hall-marks have undergone some change.

Wardens were elected by the guild, whose duty it was to pass upon the quality of goods submitted for their inspection.

Before exposing his wares for sale the manufacturer was obliged to send them to Goldsmith's Hall, after stamping each piece with his private mark. Here the goods were assayed and if found of the proper fineness were stamped with the assayer's mark. This was a letter of the alphabet, a different one was used every year, and when the alphabet was exhausted, letters of a different design were used. The wardens then stamped the plate with the mark of the hall, a leopard's head, crowned, and the silver could then legally be put on sale.

If not found up to the standard for fineness, however, the plate was crushed into a shapeless mass and returned to the makers. Severe penalties were imposed for counterfeiting the marks of the Hall.

The marks above described were the only ones used on plate until 1696, when a lion's head was substituted for the leopard's head, and also a full-length figure of Britannia. These goods were known as "Britannia standard", and were of a finer quality than the silver plate made before that date. This silver was found too soft for general use, however, and but little was made. The last device added was the head of the reigning sovereign, which has been used since 1784. In 1842 the coinage became very much debased, and the leopard's head lost its significance, which was that the plate was equal in fineness to coin. Accordingly the figure of a lion was added to the hall-marks to signify that the plate was up to the old standard of fineness.

In the United States, until recently, no such precautions in regard to silver plate were taken by law, and purchasers were obliged to take the manufacturer's word that their goods were genuine. Makers stamped their goods "coin" or "sterling," it is true, but no law required this. In 1894 New York State adopted the English standard and made it a misdemeanor to sell silver goods marked "sterling" unless they were 925-1000 fine. Later several of the other states enacted similar laws.

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Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption and nervous diseases, this recipe in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 847 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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JOHN A. SMITH,
2741 Germania Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis.

HERE are four companies in the United States which manufacture pens. This does not include gold pens, which is a separate industry, but the ordinary steel, brass and German silver pens of commerce. The steel is imported from Sheffield, England, and is of the very best quality. Many experiments have been made with American steel, but none has been found yet that is suitable for the purpose. The raw material comes in sheets three or four inches wide and from sixteen to twenty feet long. Though apparently a simple piece of work, the process of making pens includes some very delicate and accurate manipulations, as each pen has to go through nearly twenty different processes before it is ready to be shipped.

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Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least two new Cousins into the *COMFORT* circle; that is, they must send two new subscribers with each letter, together with 50 cents for the yearly subscriptions.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Harriet W. Seaver,	\$3.00
Mrs. J. O. Adams,	2.50
Max Bennett Thrasher,	2.00
Minnie I. Jones,	1.50
Frederick W. Newlands,	1.00

EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

See, Winter comes to rule the varied year," as old Thompson has it in his "Seasons," but the hoary old monarch "rules" as variously as the latitude in which he finds his subjects will allow. No tyrant with laws as unalterable as those of the Medes and Persians is he, but while he holds stern rule over a part of his realm he smiles softly upon the dwellers in other zones. Let us visit, in our first letter, a portion of his domain where snow and ice herald his coming, and call, with the writer of the letter, upon a community of Shakers living there.

"Almost at the beginning of the White Mountain range in New Hampshire and about twelve miles northeast from Concord, lies the typical country village of Canterbury; and a drive of four miles from the post-office (which in all places is the center of population), over a winding, hilly road, brings one to one of the most prosperous Shaker communities of all those which are scattered over our country. On approaching this little settlement one is tempted to exclaim: 'Another white city!' For in truth everything has that spotless appearance that only a coat of whitewash can give.

"We were very cordially greeted by one of the 'Sisters,' who for the sum of fifty cents conducted us over the establishment, and her primitive 'yea' and 'nay' to our questions, together with her unadorned linen gown and bonnet, for the time being made us feel that we were transported to, at least, some place further away than a New Hampshire village. And while we were going through the yard, to and from the different buildings the following is the bit of information I gleaned concerning this little sect.

"Being an offspring from the Quakers they were originally called in derision Shaking-Quakers, owing to their antics and movements when they were inspired. But they chose to call themselves 'The United Society of Believers.' Their leader, Ann Lee, a most remarkable woman, came to this country from England in the last part of the eighteenth century, and settled with her few followers near Albany, N.Y., from whence



A SHAKER SISTER.

tours were made resulting in the establishment of various Shaker communities throughout the East. Their four pillars of belief are Christian communism, virgin purity, confession of sin (to God before a witness) and separation from the world; in short, followers of Christ to the letter.

"A very interesting argument, doubtless, between my companion and the aforesaid 'Sister' was cut short by our arrival at the 'dairy,' where we had nothing less than boundless admiration for the cleanliness and system with which all the work moved together. From there we went to the store-room where the antique furniture, china and every imaginable thing is sold—at a very reasonable price, by the way—and finally we completed our trip by going to the store and buying candied nuts and sago-root, such as only these Shakers can make from their swamps of flag which are just across the street. And as we waved our good-bye and drove away we realized that the spirit of communism and happiness for the moment was contagious, and always we 'doff our hats' so to speak, to the good fellowship and unselfishness of the Shakers."

HARRIET W. SEAVEN, Boston, Mass.

Now for a few words from another quarter of our country.

"Mobile lies thirty-two miles from Fort Morgan, on the Mobile river. Across the river is East Mobile, formerly a marshy spot, but now improved to such an extent that saw-mills, ways for the repair of vessels, wharves, booms and numerous other industries line the shore, while along the wharves of Mobile for miles can be seen vessels loading and unloading. Many of them are engaged in the fruit trade, which also has a large overland traffic, trains of cars loading with fruit filling the side tracks far and near. On our north is Magazine Point, a milling place in front of which vessels from all nations lie in the stream loading with lumber and timber. The small near-by towns of

Whistler, Citronelle and Pritchard have also saw-mills, distilleries, cotton mills and a basket factory. Spring Hill, with its park and fine scenery, is one of our many attractions, while Oakland, with its fine houses erected by northern people and its grand ancient-modern shell road, shadowed by great trees—magnolia, sweet bay and live oak—and extending for seven miles along the shore of the bay and gulf, dotted all the way by places of amusement, parks, beautiful houses, and bending like a horse shoe as it follows the course of the water, makes a beautiful ride or walk. This is a favorite resort for picnic parties, banqueting parties, encampments of soldier boys and of private parties.

"We are proud of our city, of her energy and pluck, of her wealth and beauty, but we expect greater things of her in the future, when her resources are more fully developed, and we hope the time will soon come when the word 'Greater' will apply as fully to her as it now does to New York."

MRS. ADA MOORE CARNEY, Mobile, Ala.

Our next letter takes us to a part of our country where Winter rules very mildly.

"A stranger visiting Charleston, S. C., would doubtless observe, among other objects of interest, within one of the city's public squares the figure of a man, from whose body for over a century the right arm has been absent. It is the statue of William Pitt, the English champion of American rights, and was raised by the grateful people of a struggling colony in commemoration of his heroic efforts to obtain an alleviation of Great Britain's unjust and burdensome taxation. The statue on its western front bears the following inscription:

"In grateful memory of his services to his country in general,
And to America in particular,
The Common House of Assembly of
South Carolina
Unanimously voted that this statue of
The Right Hon. William Pitt, Esq.
Who gloriously exerted himself in defend-
ing the freedom of Americans,
The true sons of England, by promising a
repeal of the Stamp Act in the year 1766.
Time shall sooner destroy this mark of
their esteem, than erase from their
minds their just sense of his
patriotic virtue."

It was originally erected at the intersection of Broad and Meeting streets, which then (in 1769) formed the northern and western boundaries of the town. During the siege of Charleston by the British in 1780, the English batteries on James Island, near Charleston, knocked from the statue its right arm, and thus mutilated it has since remained. In 1808 it was deemed best to remove the figure of the Englishman to the beautiful grounds of the Charleston Orphans' Home, upon the threshold of which for more than fifty years it stood as though with its single arm offering its guardianship to the Orphans' Home. Perhaps an effort would have been made for the restoration of the important lost member had Pitt's memory remained in unsullied shrine within the American heart; but his declaration that America even a nail for a horseshoe uttered but a few years after his noble efforts to assist her, must naturally have produced in the struggling patriots quite a revulsion of feeling towards their former champion.

"Thus the statue of the English earl, erected in appreciative admiration by grateful people, has now become a simple landmark of their country's history, and in 1891 at the request of the South Carolina Historical Society, it was removed from the Orphans' Home to Washington Square, where it has since remained."

J. O. ADAMS, Beaufort, S. C.

Here is a new cousin from Georgia whom we welcome most heartily.

"I am deeply interested in *COMFORT* and would like to join the cousins. I offer them this month a description of a beautiful cave where once I attended a picnic on the Fourth of July. It is called Riverdale Cave, and, by some, the Haunted Cave and the Indian Cave. It is situated on the bank of the Etowah river, is about one mile in extent and looks as if it were intended for inhabitants, having four separate rooms, one of which seems to have been especially made for a ball room while another seems more suitable for a sitting room, having a stone in one corner that resembles a center table, and another large stone which reminds one of a reclining chair. This last stone is beautifully carved, not so finely finished as a skilled workman would have done it, but wonderful as the work of nature. The walls and floors of the rooms are much smoother than the chair, for they are almost like polished marble.

"There is a rather narrow and rugged passage that extends from the rooms to the river, and in this passage are several large springs the depth of which have never, as yet, been ascertained, so deep are they. There is also in this passage a large rock, from fifteen to twenty feet in height. It is soft, smooth, and of a whitish color, and thousands of people visiting the cavern have inscribed their names on the 'Tall Rock,' as it is called. Some of the dates written there are as far back as 1821. It is said that in olden times many travelers have lost their lives in this passage while seeking shelter from storms, and strangers need a guide through its dark, treacherous mazes.

"Many pleasant picnics and other entertainments have taken place here, but the most beautiful scene which I ever remember here was a wedding which I attended in this cave two years ago. The ballroom was decorated for the marriage in ferns and flowers, and lighted with Japanese lanterns and little candles which were fastened up everywhere among the decorations, making the room so light that it almost seemed like sunlight. Indeed, it was the prettiest and most impressive wedding that I have ever witnessed, and the enjoyment was increased by the sound of a brass band playing marches suitable for the occasion.

"After the ceremony we were conducted to another of the rooms where a table was spread with every luxury that could please the taste. In the afternoon the music began again in the ballroom, and here the guests gathered once more and danced for the remainder of the evening."

MINNIE I. JONES, Cartersville, Ga.

Now let us visit an old Maryland Manor house which, I am sorry to say, is fast dropping to pieces.

"An interesting place to visit is the historical old Calvert mansion in Riverdale, Maryland, under whose roof such eminent men as George Washington, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster have been sheltered. The building is now fast decaying. The large gardens, in which the famous Calvert oleander once bloomed, are overgrown with weeds and the stone gateposts and outbuildings are green with moss.

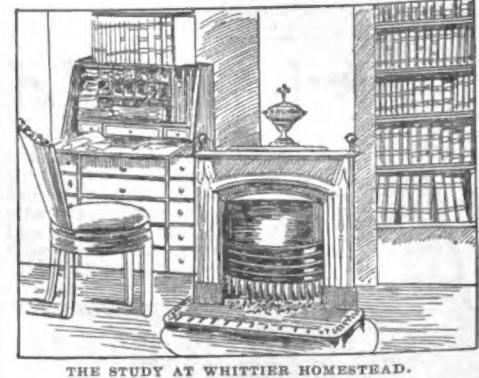
"The exterior of the house is very imposing. It is a long, low building with a wing at either end. An oak-shaded drive leads to the main entrance, in front of which is a circular lawn. In the center of the lawn are the remains of a once beautiful fountain. The front doors are of English oak and open upon an immense hallway on the opposite side of which are folding doors leading to the ballroom. The walls show traces of elegant paintings and woodwork elaborately carved and stuccoed. From the ballroom two doors of solid mahogany lead into the east and west drawing-rooms, and we were told that it was in the latter that John Parke Custis, George Washington's stepson, wooed and won Miss Eleanor Calvert.

The remainder of the first floor is taken up by the kitchen, dining-room, library and storerooms, a wide staircase leading to the second floor where are the rooms which, in the old days, were set apart for the use of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and General Washington—all close friends of George Calvert. In one room is a chair used by Clay and also a cedar-lined wardrobe in which, it is said, the famous statesman used to hang his long-tailed coat, satin vest and knee breeches. The rooms of Washington and Webster are bare of furniture, and are uninteresting save for their historic associations.

"Next comes the garret—the very name of which suggests mystery. It is reached by a narrow,

and now it is time for us to turn our thoughts to Christmas and its joys and duties, and here is a letter which will help us a bit in that direction.

"With the return of these bleak December days come strains of the oft-repeated chorus 'Hosanna



THE STUDY AT WHITTIER HOMESTEAD.

in the highest.' Are our heartstrings tuned to this harmony? Are we doing all we can to make this a bright Christmas for every one within our reach? Let us begin with our home and let us—young and old—reach out to see what can be done this year. Work with children more particularly perhaps than in any other sphere, requires cheerfulness of spirit,—warmth of heart and interest in all their little plans.

"How well we remember the thrill of joy in our youthful hearts at the thought of Christmas. Mothers can help the children to understand the meaning of this feast, relating the story of the Christ-Child, The First Christmas-tree and the Yule-logs of England, besides countless other stories of loving kindness at Yuletide.

Singing, too, tends to enliven the season. Even the songs sung by our grandmothers, 'Coaxing Santa,' and 'Hang up the Baby's Stocking' are interesting and new to the little icts.

"Many people of intelligence are of the opinion that small gifts will not suffice; that one must give something of great money value or nothing. I believe in giving with the right spirit any token of remembrance available and that happiness will surely result. There is also this bugbear idea, that for whatever we receive at this season we must give in return something exactly as good, or as valuable as the gift received. Is this the idea of giving?" I do not think so.

"Sometimes a letter, an invitation to dine, fills the place of a gift; all kindnesses shown are gifts always. Thus we can see that there are various ways of giving and if we can but feel that 'giving enriches the giver' we have the right Christmas spirit and besides making ourselves happy we have been a blessing to others."

Our Lord tells us to "Give, hoping for nothing again," and James Russell Lowell, in his "Vision of Sir Launfal," tells us that

"The gift, without the giver, is bare," and a Christmas gift, given because we feel that we must, or because some one has given to us and we feel that the same value must be returned, or because we wish to curry favor with a person, is not a gift, it is a bargain, and is in direct opposition to all the teachings of the blessed time of Christmas.

"From all (such) evil and mischief, Good Lord, deliver us."

HAVE YOU CATARRH?

There is one remedy you can try without danger of humbug. Send to H. G. Colman, Chemist, 440 So-West St., Kalamazoo, Mich., for a trial package of his catarrh cure. His only mode of advertising is by giving it away.

AGENTS COIN MONEY selling Gumstickum, a mucilage-paste; regular 25 cent quart package for 10 cents, to introduce. Ed. Madigan, Clarksville, Iowa.

AGENTS, credit, Flavor Powders, etc. Big Profits. Ex. Pd. Terms Free. Martens Co., Box 40, Sta. L, New York.

Home Work 60c a sheet, copying. Send stamp.

Wholesale Supply Co., South Bend, Ind.

\$8 Paid Per 100 for Distributing Samples of Washington fluid. Send 6c stamp. A. SCOTT, Cohoes, N.Y.

600 Second-Hand BICYCLES \$3 to \$8. Bargain list free. Dept. 17, Mead Cycle Co., Chicago.

Be Your Own Boss. Make money in your own home, no canvassing; write to F. R. THOMAS, 107 Parrish St., Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

WE PAY \$20 A WEEK and EXPENSES to men with rigs to introduce our Poultry Compound. Send stp. JAVELLE MFG. CO., Dept. 17, PARSONS, KANSAS.

COMBINATION DIPPER 9 ARTICLES in one. Fast seller. Samples free to agt. 50 rapid sellers. C. S. HORNER CO., 1409 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

STEADY HOME WORK for ladies. No canvassing; no worthless outfit to buy. Send stamped envelope to Dickey Mfg. Co., Dickey Building, Chicago, Ills.

UNIVERSAL FIRE KINDER Millions in use. Everlasting. Sample and terms prepaid, 15 cents. BLOOMFIELD MFG. CO., Box 12, BLOOMFIELD, IND.

916 CARDS NEW Sample Style ENVELOPE, SIDE Fringe 25 New Songs, 100 Rich and Easy and 1 Acquaintance Card. Standard Box Colors, etc. CROWN CARD CO., B2, Columbus, Ohio.

WEALTH comes by knowing one's power. Secret influence taught by mail. Free lesson for stamp. Prof. Marchand, (occultist), Hotel Pelham, Boston.

SOMETHING NEW Any name or three names made in a brooch or lapel pin of our new gold wire. Warranted for five years.

GREELY JEWELRY CO., Portland, Me.

Sell Your Real Estate. We want good City and Farm property in all parts of the U. S. and Canada. Send description and cash price.

WINSLOW REALTY AND INVESTMENT CO., Sta. E., South Bend, Ind.

NOT A PIG In a pock, but did you ever hear a *Pig Sing*?

Well, this *Pig* Exposition, is the latest and greatest wonder out. More fun with this cute little porker than anything ever invented. You simply blow him up like the picture here then the *Pig* begins to sing while he squeals, then collapses, then gives up the ghost with a last faint grunt and finally dies.

Everything about the tragic ending is so funny, so tragic, so touching, so heart-rending, that you nearly burst with hilarity, so funny is the ending of poor Piggy. Thousands of these Musical Dying Pigs were sold in Paris at the Exposition this season and they are now all the rage in New York. Don't fail to get one if you want some fun.

They are strongly made of a thin rubber substance so you can carry them in your vest pocket and suddenly blow him up and then there is more fun ahead than a box of monkeys. Just get one and try it. Agents can see that you like hot cakes.

SPECIAL OFFER. person for a special year's subscription at only 25c, we will send our magazine a full year to the subscriber and send you postage two pigs as a free gift. Or if you will send

Distinguishing Features of the Women's Colleges.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN point of health, discipline and curriculum there is little choice among the various seats of learning, all aims and standards ranking high; but each has some characteristic features setting a seal upon its individuality, and often influencing the new student in her selection of an Alma Mater.

Vassar impresses the observer with its strength and system in all things, its power in shaping the trend of the undergraduate

mind and character without bias to individual personality. The equalizing influences discourage abnormal development and tend to turn out young women well equipped to meet the varied experiences of life that await them outside of college walls. Vassar is one of the few colleges requiring gymnasium training throughout the entire four years' course, while its four hundred acres include miles of gravel walks, an athletic field, a lake for boating and skating, golf links and tennis courts for the prescribed outdoor recreation. Its faculty represents progress and scholarly erudition, its buildings number modern dormitories, its social life covers a wide range with its clubs and societies, its formal and impromptu

gaiety. The ideal beauty of the natural surroundings at Wellesley surpass that of any of the sister colleges, and leaves its impress on the young hearts and minds in training there. It helps to make the scholar for which this institution is noted, also its charitable, sweet-natured girl. The lover of aquatic sports singles out Wellesley which offers such rare opportunities for boating on beautiful Lake Waban under the tutelage of Miss Lucile Eaton Hill, the director of physical culture and an expert oarswoman. A lovely sight comes with Float Day in June when the skilled class and college crews exhibit their good form in rowing to the thousands of spectators who line the shores and give vent to lusty enthusiasm.

Life at Smith College with its twelve hundred students is supposed to approach nearest to that of the home circle and normal conditions as the girls are allowed all the freedom possible and encouraged to cultivate social ties among the townspeople, Northampton laying claim to a delightfully refined and literary atmosphere, its public library, Home Culture Club founded by the author, George W. Cable, and its Academy of Music offering advantages in line with the tastes of the girlish collegian. President Seelye to whom much of Smith's success is due, has always advocated the thoroughly womanly woman and frowned upon any aping of the men's colleges. For this reason Smith has never had a college yell or cheer. Health, smart attire, and plenty of diversion both on and off the campus mark existence in this largest of women's colleges, though the studious girl finds a perfect intellectual Eldorado, and the impecunious one's popularity depends entirely upon herself, money not weighing in the balance.

High scholarly attainment is Bryn Mawr's keynote, its students and alumnae priding themselves on their brains and lack of feminine sentimentality. Its graduate department



A WELLESLEY CREW.

fosters this spirit, being the largest and most adequate among the women's colleges, its workers very much in earnest in their advanced study and scientific research. It is a favored college with girls blessed with this world's goods, and social doings reach heights indicating substantial resources as well as originality. Out-door sports flourish, while practice in the finely appointed gymnasium with big swimming pool is systematic.

The Woman's College of Baltimore attracts by the charm of its cordial and happy atmosphere, its able president, Dr. John F. Goucher, and up to date professors, and fine scheme of buildings, the residence halls arranged with all light, airy bedrooms, elevators, and dining halls on the top floor. Its mild climate holds inducement, also its proximity to Washington, the seat of Federal Government and to the Johns Hopkins University whose splendid medical school is open to women.

The sweet Christian spirit all-pervading at Mount Holyoke always brings there a class of students of lovely character besides fine mental calibre, who do not say much of their possible achievements but whose deeds speak for them. The wide awake corps of professors keeps the young scholars abreast of the times, while the domestic training, light as it may be, has its influence in fitting them for the home making which is the gladly accepted vocation of so many college bred women. This pioneer seat of learning has steadily advanced since its founding as a seminary by Mary Lyon some sixty-five years ago, and under its new president, Miss Mary E. Woolley, great things are predicted for its near future.

The College for Women of Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, was the first to assume the system of co-ordination in education. That means it has its own corps of professors and instructors, and is an integral part of the university on an equal footing with Adelbert College, the men's branch of Western Reserve, its graduates receiving the same university degree. As the leading woman's college of the West, where co-education reigns supreme, it draws the feminine contingent preferring the action and environment of the separate institution, yet liking the broader outlook of university connection.

Barnard College has recently adopted co-education, having been for a number of years

affiliated with Columbia University which confers upon the Barnard girls the Columbian degree, a fact proving a great drawing card. Situated in New York, the students enjoy the cosmopolitan conditions of the huge metropolis, the suburban air of the provincial being quickly rubbed off by such contact. The daily routine in Fiske Hall, the handsome dormitory, combines with studious application, gaiety and good cheer, and the benefits of hearing and meeting the variety of distinguished persons constantly drawn to an educational center like Columbia.

Radcliffe affiliated with Harvard, and the Women's College with Brown University give to the women students instruction by the respective university teaching staffs, only that Brown allows them the same diploma while Harvard's president countersigns the Radcliffe sheepskin, not granting the regulation Harvard degree. However, it virtually amounts to the same thing. The girls at both these colleges experience a specific phase of the higher education, though now that they are both introducing a touch of dormitory life they will approach nearer the scope of the customary women's college.

Art Under Feet.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NE of the oldest industries and the earliest way of expressing a love of the beautiful and artistic was in the weaving of rugs in the Orient.

Nowadays the importation of these works of art form a very large part of our commerce.

The oldest carpetings made of woollen threads

on linen strings were found in Egypt, but whether these were the handiwork of Egyptians or Babylonians is not known.

The Persians are probably the finest rug weavers in the world and their oldest products date to long before Christ. Animals and hunting scenes predominate, with a few floral figures. These rugs were made not by companies, but families. Certain districts, of course, had certain styles, making perhaps the idea carried out in the rug patterns similar in each district, but no two rugs exactly alike, for individuals would express in the pattern some original thought, and possibly some occurrence or pathetic detail of the rug weaver's life would be worked into the design, an anecdote are written into a story. Thus an oriental rug maker becomes an artist rather than an artisan. The Khorassan, Kerman, and Feraghan are probably in this class the best, and the deep blue of the old Persian rugs is probably the most valuable characteristic. The artists today are unable to produce this. Some of the products are impaired by aniline dyes, also by water-color paints which the cunning Persians employ to temporarily strengthen their coloring.

The Kerman rug is in texture very valuable. Its design is mostly of men and animals. The Shiraz rug is often woven of undyed camel's hair for a border, which makes the figures in the center stand out in rich contrast to the reddish-brown background.

The Kurds, a tribe of brigands subject to both Turkey and Persia, make a most beautiful rug, called Kourdistan. It is delicately woven in an impressionist style, perhaps with flowers as a design. They also make a beautiful, soft rug which may be washed over and over again, called Ghileems.

From the cradle of the Turkish race comes the most durable rug, called Khiva or Bokhara, which is used by them as a portiere for their tent. Turkish rugs are rarely seen with any white on them, neither do they weave men or animals into them. Their designs are usually in lines or stripes. They make their own vegetable dyes, raise and card the wool and originate the design.

Probably of all rugs the prayer-rug is most common, peculiar to Mohammedan countries. They are designed with a figure, whereon the faithful kneel, pointing toward Mecca to which their prayers go forth. The devout Mohammedan carries his rug ever with him and usually a compass, so that if he lose his direction in his traveling he may be able thus to point his rug in the right direction and at the hour of prayer, kneel.

The time is arriving when the Orientals may import steam made rugs, and as the wages rise in the East will not spend their time weaving. When this comes about and the manufacture of Persian rugs is a thing of the past, then these works of art will literally be worth twice their weight in gold.

THE HIGHEST POPULARITY.

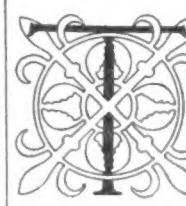
Dr. Lyman Abbott, pastor of Plymouth Church, made the remark of E. P. Roe and his novels: "I venture to say that no man, woman, or child has ever read through one of Mr. Roe's books without being bettered by the reading." "Driven Back to Eden," one of his representative books, which has been read by thousands who paid \$1.25 for it, has now been selected by the International Association of Newspapers and Authors for reissue and distribution through COMFORT. Through special arrangement with Mr. Roe's publishers the new edition is printed from the original plates. It is attractively bound in cloth, too. For authors and titles of these books and particulars of distribution see a special subscription club announcement on page 21 of this issue.

Learn Book-keeping
BY MAIL—AT YOUR OWN HOME.

This is the chance of a lifetime for young men and women, for you should not miss it. New method, any one can learn it within 6 to 8 weeks and places you in position to earn good salary at once. Thoroughly practical and remarkably inexpensive; we find postals, too, free of charge. Write to-day for full particulars. Michigan Business Institute, 30 Institute Building, Kalamazoo, Mich.

STAMMER
Our 200-page book, "How to Cure Stammering," sent free to any address. Enclose 6 cents to pay postage. THE LEWIS SCHOOL, 20 Adelaide St., Detroit, Mich.

A Fowl Invention.



HE inventive genius of a South Dakota man has put on the market a hen-roost that is warranted to prevent ambitious roosters from crowing in the middle of the night. He noticed that the fowl was always obliged to stand up in order to get a good grip on the perch when he was about to crow.

The roost was arranged so that it could be raised until the fowls were almost touching the roof. After they perched for the night the roost was raised. When the rooster tries to stand up to crow in the middle of the night he finds the roof in the way and being too sleepy to hop down, decides to postpone his musical challenge until a more seasonable time in the morning. At least, that is the way the Dakota inventor has figured things out, and what is more he claims that the plan works beautifully.

HOME WORK 60c. a sheet, copying. Send stamp. The World Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 27, Mutual, Ohio.

MARRY Any man willing to MARRY a PLAIN Lady, worth \$145,000 and \$100,000 in property, will be sent to C. W. Wadsworth, Dept. 10, 644 CLIMAX Office, CHICAGO, ILL. may send his Address to MARY, 67, 644 CLIMAX Office, CHICAGO.

DETECTIVE Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders. No experience needed. American Detective Ass'n., Indianapolis, Ind.

10,000 ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO **GET MARRIED** Many rich. Big lists with pictures and addresses FREE. The PILOT, 6, Station E. Chicago.

ACENTS to sell a toilet article for hands and face that can't be beat; send 25 cents in stamps (retail price) for sample and terms. Address L. W. SMITH, Shamokin, Pa.

ASTONISH by your application, DO YOU WISH to be successful in BUSINESS? LOVE TO MARRY? DO YOU WANT THE KEY to make your life a SUCCESS? Do you want to be a success in your business? Address PROF. BONDURANT, L. B. 1909, BOSTON, MASS.

ANY LADY sending us names of five good dressers who order by mail and 10c. will receive our magazine for one year and a handsome article of seasonal neckwear. Address Mail Order Pub. Co., C 220 Germania Life, St. Paul, Minn.

LADIES Something new, making sofa pillows at home, \$7 to \$12 weekly; material furnished. No canvassing. Steady employment guaranteed. Send stamped addressed envelope Household Mfg. Co., ERIE St., Chicago.

CALIFORNIA'S OIL BOOM. No work and \$25 a month. Invest \$25 and get dividends of \$25 a month. \$50 gives you \$250 per month. Send to-day. MT. HAMILTON LAND & OIL CO., Rea Bldg., San Jose, Cal.

ASTHMA Instant relief & positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. "Physician's" Box 36, Augusta, Maine.

REGISTERED IN U. S. PATENT OFFICE, SEPT. 24, 1901.

WIDE AWAKE FREE

Any girl can earn this beautiful Imported dressed Doll nearly two feet tall, a perfect beauty imported direct from Europe. This lovely doll has a beautiful turban head, pearl teeth, long golden hair, natural sleeping eyes, jointed body, real slippers, stockings, etc., by introducing our latest Parisian Novelties, ladies and misses belts pins, hair barrettes, beauty pins, etc., at ten cents per card.

GRAND 30 DAY Postage paid. Write to-day. If you are a child from abroad, send us your full name & address & we will send you 15 cards of our latest Parisian Novelties postpaid. You sell at ten cents per card and return us \$1.50, we will send you a beautiful Imported French Doll also a gold finished ring.

FRENCH NOVELTY CO., Dept. 67, Bridgeport, Conn.

give away absolutely free and we want every prospective reader of this magazine to have one now. You could not give a child any piece of silverware that will be as useful nor used as early and often. Mugs make the best kind of birthday and Christmas gifts and if a child now has one, another will be useful sooner or later. Years ago it was a great luxury to have a gold-lined mug and only rich people could afford to have them for their children, but nowadays it is possible to make them in such immense quantities with all modern aids that we were glad to learn where to obtain them knowing how pleased our readers would be to have the opportunity of obtaining one at little cost.

Special Offer. If you will send us a club of only two, trial 25c. subscriptions to this magazine we will send you the Mug as a free premium and our magazine one year to each subscriber. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

AGENTS WANTED, MALE AND FEMALE, IN EVERY

town and city in the United States, to sell BROWN HERB TABLETS—a family remedy, made of herbs only. Cures all diseases of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Blood. If you are in need of employment we will tell you how to easily make \$18.00 per week sure. Learn of our new and easy method. Write to-day and you will thank us later. Address

THE BROWN HERB CO.,
Dept. A. B., 57 Warren St., New York City.

PIANO AND ORGAN FREE MINIATURES

On Receipt of Your Request we will send, charges paid anywhere, our new 1902 Souvenir Catalogue, with embossed and colored plates, illustrating all our styles of Pianos and Organs. It will prove to you that you can save from 25 to 100 per cent, and show you how we send our instruments on

One Year's FREE Trial With the catalogue we will forward prepaid to any interested person a set of

Piano and Organ Miniatures FREE. a marvelous help to the selection of a suitable instrument. This unique advertisement has been prepared by us at great cost, and no intending purchaser can afford to be without it.

ALL FOR NOTHING Write for it to-day and mention this paper. Full particulars of our Co-partnership Plan are also sent, showing how you can get a

Piano or Organ Free NOTE—First Purchasers in new locality will be invited to a SPECIAL OFFER addressed to them and sent with every catalogue, it includes a handsome cash bonus.

Write for the great Cornish Catalogue to-day. Catalogue and Miniatures FREE. CORNISH CO. From \$25.00 Cash or Instalments. Washington, New Jersey, Established 50 Years.

A Child's Gold-Lined Silver Mug.

Quadrupole Plated Ware, Frosted Enamel Finish, will not tarnish and is so strong and durable baby or child cannot ruin it while playing with it. Handsome embossed decoration, leaves, buds, flowers, etc., hand cut and very attractive. Fancy handle just large enough for baby's hands. The above is a description of a very useful Child's Mug we

give away absolutely free and we want every prospective reader of this magazine to have one now. You could not give a child any piece of silverware that will be as useful nor used as early and often. Mugs make the best kind of birthday and Christmas gifts and if a child now has one, another will be useful sooner or later. Years ago it was a great luxury to have a gold-lined mug and only rich people could afford to have them for their children, but nowadays it is possible to make them in such immense quantities with all modern aids that we were glad to learn where to obtain them knowing how pleased our readers would be to have the opportunity of obtaining one at little cost.

If you will send us a club of only two, trial 25c. subscriptions to this magazine we will send you the Mug as a free premium and our magazine one year to each subscriber.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

LONG DISTANCE SINGLE BARREL SHOTGUN \$4.35

SEND US \$1.00 deposit, state whether 30 or 32-inch barrel is desired, and we will send this guaranteed long distance single barrel shotgun C. O. D., by express, subject to examination, you to pay the express charges, the balance due, \$3.35, and express charges after you find it perfectly satisfactory and a wonderful bargain, otherwise refuse to accept it and we will refund your \$1.00.

THIS FINE GUN is made by expert gunmakers, every part and piece fitted perfectly and reinforced to it so it will shoot loose or shaky, built extra solid to withstand the use of any NITRO POWDER, breech loading, barrel of finest triplite steel, taper choke bored, latest improved top snap and rebounding hammer, best quality steel works, extra strong spring, fine pistol grip, fancy rubber butt plate, elegantly finished stock, 30 or 32-inch barrel, 12-gauge only.

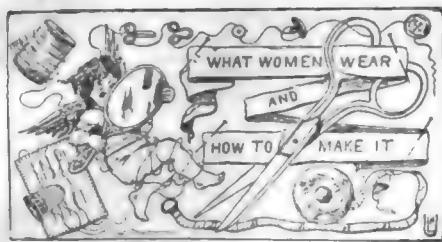
GUARANTEED a sure killer at a long distance and absolutely the best gun in the world at anywhere near the price.

FOR 50c EXTRA or \$4.85 in all, we will furnish the same gun with latest improved automatic shell ejector which throws shell out automatically. JOHN M. SMYTH CO. 150-166 and 287-289 W. Madison Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

\$1,000.00 IN GOLD FREE!

THE PARROT HAS ESCAPED FROM THE GAGE—TRY TO FIND HIM Boys and girls over twelve years of age who will cut out this picture and mark plainly with pencil or pen the missing bird (if they can find it) **MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$1,000.00 WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY IN FIVE MONTHLY PREMIUMS** for doing a little work for us. This is a contest where both brains and energy count. We are determined to make the name of our charming monthly magazine a household word, and we take this novel plan of advertising. This and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the most entertaining New York magazines into every home of the United States and Canada. **WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY.** There is only one condition, which should take less than one hour of your time, which we will write you as soon as your answer is received. **After you have found the missing parrot, send it to us at once.** It may take an entire evening, but it will pay you to **STICK TO IT AND TRY TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE \$1,000.00.** A sample copy of our MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE to everyone answering this advertisement. Try to solve this puzzle. Do not delay. Send your answer immediately. We positively guarantee that this Missing Parrot can be found. Of course, like all problems, it will require some thought, patience and time. But the reward is well worth striving for, especially when we do not ask you to send us any money with your answer. The golden prizes of life are being gained by brains and energy nowadays. Lazy people and the drones and idlers are always complaining of bad luck. Now here is the golden chance for anyone who will strive hard, and the pleasure of part of it is that it does not cost you one cent outside of the letter you send us. Our magazine will please you. It delights us to please our readers. We are continually giving away large sums of money in different contests, as we find it is the very best kind of advertising.

TRY AND WIN. If you find the parrot and send the slip with it marked thereon to us at once, who knows but what you will get the gold? Anyway, we do not want any money from you, and a puzzle like this is very interesting. As soon as we receive your answer we will try at once write you and you will hear from us by return mail. We hope you will try for it, as we shall give the \$1,000.00 away anyway. Do not delay. Write



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

IKE time, fashion never stands still; some movement is always going on, though there is little radically new to the casual observer. Skirts still cling about the hips and to the knees, and still flare wonderfully at the foot. The waist is still kept long in front, the hips supple, and the back perfectly flat, that rare mark of a perfectly beautiful figure apparent in old Greek statues. Fashions in figures hark back to one hundred years ago when the lines were shown off and accentuated. Even our hats have crept back to a shape very similar to that worn by the gay goddesses of fashion in the days of the Directory.

The low, flat affair is immensely becoming, and so are the three-cornered hats when the face is youthful and pretty. The pagoda sleeve has a tremendous following, but the modified bishop sleeve, with a turn-back vandyke cuff is slowly edging in, while an enormous comfortable sleeve, called the dogaresse is a feature of new cloaks, and is even seen on gowns for street wear, and is copied from the mantles worn by the dogresses of Venice.

The knot of hair in the nape of the neck has become universal, and sets one to wondering how long it will be before we are welcoming back the chignon to its old place. I wonder if basket-plaits will ever become a fashionable coiffure again. They were very neat, very orderly, and showed off glossy, abundant hair to

great advantage,

our mothers tell us—well, we'll

times change, and we with them.

The standard of beauty in both face and fashion is at the mercy of a whim, and the things we admire most today will be despised next week. Individuality in dress grows daily as fashion becomes more and more important.

The woman who buys her clothes as she buys her groceries, at the recommendation of the shopman, will always be at the beck and call of the slave-driver, Fashion; but the good dresser is coming more and more to exercise the dictates of her own feelings and tastes in the matter of dress and the result will be, sooner or later, an ideal philosophy of clothes.

Well-dressed women have at last come to the conclusion that for the street nothing is fit except a skirt that escapes the ground. Some of the short-skirted walking gowns which Parisian women will wear for shopping and general wear are immensely chic. A fitting finish to this skirt is the short, natty, English box-coat, which clings just sufficiently to the figure to suggest the outlines.

One of the prettiest tea-gowns I have seen this season is an empire of black accordions-



wide, and an inch apart, showing the net between and slightly pouched.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, dispepsia, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address

MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

An Odd Newspaper.

ROBABLY the most remarkable publication in the way of a newspaper that the world has ever known was the "Muse Historique." This unique paper which started in 1615 was a weekly and contained the news of the world in rhyme. It was edited by one Jacques Loret, who was also proprietor, business manager, and entire reportorial force.

Every kind of subject was treated by Mons. Loret, and in a style grave or gay to correspond with the nature of item of news. The Muse Historique was published for fifty years, but passed away with its owner, probably because nobody else cared to undertake such a laborious task.

DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DOLLAR.

Silver money melts from the pocket; paper money is "burned" for this and that, and in either case there is an aching void; disappearing dollars "make the heart sad." But it is different when the dollar disappears from the price of an article of merchandise and it thus becomes that much cheaper than expected and the dollar remains in the pocket. This happy surprise is enjoyed by those who are in the habit of paying \$1.00 or \$1.25 for copyrighted books when they find they can get the desired volume for nothing. Such is the rule in the notable distribution by the International Association of Newspapers and Authors, now going on through the Club Subscription Department of COMFORT. See announcement on page 21.

THE two sides of the human face are never exactly alike. There is often a difference in the eyes; one is stronger than the other, is out of line, or, occasionally, is of a different shade. Try it when next you sit for photographs, and have two negatives taken, one for each side of the face, and then compare the two. Even the mouth and the expression will be found to be different in the two views.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assortments, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

Walking costumes of corduroy velvet are very much worn, an especially smart one being built of drab velvet, the coat having a fairly long basque, trimmed like the skirt with stitched bands the same color as the velvet. The sleeves are arranged in large box-plaits, with flaring cuffs trimmed

with the cloth.

Evening dresses are still worn very long, with half trains for dancing. For indoor wear they rest upon the ground, and are a little shorter in front than they used to be, so that one can walk without tripping over them.

A sweetly pretty evening gown for a young girl is made of esprit net in cream white, the low bodice trimmed with stripes of white satin ribbon placed perpendicularly, about an inch



wide, and an inch apart, showing the net between and slightly pouched.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, dispepsia, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address

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A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assortments, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

Walking costumes of corduroy velvet are very much worn, an especially smart one being built of drab velvet, the coat having a fairly long basque, trimmed like the skirt with stitched bands the same color as the velvet. The sleeves are arranged in large box-plaits, with flaring cuffs trimmed

with the cloth.

Evening dresses are still worn very long, with half trains for dancing. For indoor wear they rest upon the ground, and are a little shorter in front than they used to be, so that one can walk without tripping over them.

A sweetly pretty evening gown for a young girl is made of esprit net in cream white, the low bodice trimmed with stripes of white satin ribbon placed perpendicularly, about an inch



wide, and an inch apart, showing the net between and slightly pouched.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, dispepsia, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address

MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

An Odd Newspaper.

ROBABLY the most remarkable publication in the way of a newspaper that the world has ever known was the "Muse Historique." This unique paper which started in 1615 was a weekly and contained the news of the world in rhyme. It was edited by one Jacques Loret, who was also proprietor, business manager, and entire reportorial force.

Every kind of subject was treated by Mons. Loret, and in a style grave or gay to correspond with the nature of item of news. The Muse Historique was published for fifty years, but passed away with its owner, probably because nobody else cared to undertake such a laborious task.

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as second-class mail matter.

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New York Office, Temple Court. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

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ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES,
Each and Every Issue,
Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Once a year COMFORT presents to its subscribers and readers many attractive selections for quick and easily obtainable club-gifts which include articles for household use and adornment or personal use and pleasure, and we feel that we present this year many articles highly attractive and far ahead of our previous efforts and we sincerely hope that no club announcements in this issue will escape your attention and that you will not fail to partake of one or more of our particularly liberal inducements for renewals, extensions and new subscriptions to COMFORT for 1902.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT COMFORT'S FUTURE.
COMFORT now has the largest circulation of any publication of any kind anywhere and its bright title cover page brings sunshine to more American homes every month than any similar publication anywhere. Its interesting short stories and feature departments regularly entertain and amuse more people than any other publication and for the year of 1902, in addition to all that we now present regularly and in order to still further increase our subscription list, we shall run a series of continued stories. These stories will be the best effort of America's most entertaining authors who will be added to COMFORT's Editorial Staff, thus obtaining the absolute control of their productions for the exclusive presentation to COMFORT's readers. The addition of this feature of continued stories will be readily appreciated by the thousands who have read COMFORT since its first appearance fourteen years ago and who today are eagerly await the arrival of its monthly issue as ever.

NEW SPECIAL ARTICLES.

We shall also present, in addition to the continued stories, as a new feature, many special articles written exclusively for COMFORT by our former brilliant contributors whose way of presenting in attractive, concise and pithy paragraphs such articles as are of current interest to our nation which include accounts of our distinguished citizens, philanthropists, also doings at Washington, as well as new discoveries, international occurrences of note, exhibitions, and other news matter presented in the form of condensed information.

ORIGINAL COVER DESIGNS.

COMFORT was the first magazine in the world to present a monthly change of cover design. This was our original idea and has been maintained as a distinct feature at a large expense and for next year we have already prepared a series of colored half-tone covers and title page pictures which are reproduced from photographs of living subjects who posed exclusively for COMFORT's own artist. These beautiful half-tone pictures are each month appropriate to the season: the January cover page presents the face of a beautiful child gazing into space apparently welcoming the New Year while 1902, represented as a youth, bids adieu to 1901 who passes out as an old man. February, the valentine month, has an appropriate half-tone of a cute little miss playing the piano; it is embellished in colors with valentine suggestions. April, the Easter month, presents a handsome child in a hay mow with the proud hen who has laid the Easter Egg; this is embellished with an April shower sketch which is very handsome. June, the month of roses, will be represented by a typical Summer scene and is one of the most attractive cover pages ever offered. We mention these few and you may be assured that the other months in the year are to be treated in a likewise attractive manner.

RENEWALS AND NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

At this season of the year we make the most strenuous efforts to add the greatest number of subscribers to our list. Naturally enough we are not only anxious to retain our gigantic circulation and forever maintain that COMFORT has the largest circulation of any periodical published, but add to its already great number of subscribers, and we make every honorable effort to maintain such kindly feeling with our friends and patrons as will induce voluntary renewals and additions. It is customary to present, particularly at the holiday season, an array of Household Goods that are attractive to the eye of our readers and obtain for us a canvassing representative in every town and hamlet in the United States.

The unlimited number of readers and like-

wise almost as many wants makes it necessary to present a most varied assortment of goods, in this way pleasing most any fancy or desire. In this particular issue we present several offers that are entirely new to our readers, and we most anxiously desire that you read every word of these offers carefully as they are entirely different, absolutely new departures, and positively the most liberal it was ever our good fortune to be enabled to make. Our peculiarly fortunate position as buyers in all markets, being extensive users of such a varied line of merchandise, is advantageous to ourselves but more directly to our readers who are enabled to obtain as club rewards the finest kinds of merchandise for a lesser number of subscribers than it is possible for any other publisher to require.

GREAT PAINTINGS.

On page 22 of this issue we are able to present small fac-simile pictures of a series of four great master-pieces, the work of the world's celebrated artists. COMFORT has been engaged in producing an enormous edition of these four pictures for a long time and we do not hesitate to assert, though it may seem like self-praise, that these four pictures, singly or together, are the best for universal distribution that it is possible to obtain. The subjects are varied and each one will be appreciated and it would seem that everybody would want the entire set at once and that every family would frame one or more as they certainly are attractive and ornamental. These pictures are reproduced by the most modern method known; there is even a detail in the make of the paper on which these pictures are produced that is entirely new. This feature is the canvas-like surface of that portion of the paper on which the picture is printed, giving the same effect to the eye as would a genuine oil painting on canvas. It is something never before used and its appearance in the group of COMFORT's Art Work is exclusively controlled by us. With each picture we give a short account of its painter, also description of the subject which it will not be amiss to read as these little stories better make the subject understood. We also describe their size and other details in connection with the offer for subscription work and renewals to introduce the pictures. If you are interested in your home or want appropriate Christmas gifts at a small cost, it should be your first duty to thoroughly read everything we say in connection with the pictures and the matter of obtaining them for nothing.

SPECIAL CLUB OFFERS.

Elsewhere in our columns we offer attractive and A number one premiums for incredibly small clubs of subscribers and every reader is given an opportunity to obtain crockery ware, silverware, Bibles, watches, clocks, glassware, musical instruments and novelties.

Taking all in all we affirm that we not only present the most attractive home monthly magazine but give our readers and club-raisers the most liberal rewards in the line of merchandise articles that are second to none and, regardless of all that you have enjoyed in COMFORT during the past, our efforts in the future will certainly produce a magazine of superior interest in every respect.

GREAT BOOK OFFERS.

COMFORT recently co-operated its interests with the International Association of Publishers and Authors which obtained for a limited time the privilege of using for the exclusive benefit of its readers and people generally remote from large department stores an edition of four million books embracing the works of forty authors, each of whom produce one volume. These books are absolutely new copyright stories, not reproductions from old expired copyright work, but are books that are being sold at \$1.00, \$1.25, and \$1.50 per copy, exactly the same in every particular, in the regular book stores and it is to acquaint the world with the names of these authors and through this publicity create a demand for their future efforts. As the greater number of these contributors wish to be known to what we call "bookworms" you will see that it is to their advantage to waive all their royalties and other profits as the future editions of their books will be sought at most any price. A full description of the books, binding and our distributing plan appears on another page of this issue and is without question an unprecedented opportunity, as you are allowed to return the first book which is sent on inspection if it does not prove to be all that we represent it.

ONLY 25c. PER YEAR.

The regular and only subscription rate of 25c. per year slightly over 2c. per month will be maintained as before. We expect as a result of the improvements to obtain sufficient revenue to do more than we have planned and appropriated for which happy result will without doubt reward our endeavors and you will receive a magazine equal in value to those whose subscription rate is \$1.00 per year or 10c. per copy.

YELLOW SUBSCRIPTION BLANKS.

If you receive a yellow subscription blank with your paper this month you will know that either your subscription has expired or is about to expire or that you are especially invited to extend your own subscription or secure a club from one to a dozen new subscribers. You will notice we give in this issue an unlimited assortment of club gifts for home and personal use for the very smallest number of subscribers. All expiring names will be removed if not renewed within thirty days.

TO OUR OLD AND NEW FRIENDS.

We hope you have always found pleasure and profit in the columns of COMFORT as a regular reader, and if you are a trial subscriber we hope you have been pleased with the measure we have given in the past and we are frank enough to ask you, plainly, to please renew your subscription this month as we cannot promise to continue the offers here given indefinitely and we would like you to share in the good things with our other subscribers. Certainly at this season of the year everyone is planning on spending more or less for Christmas gifts and surely everyone is repaid in some way for the prosperous circumstances and conditions that our great nation is enjoying. We never hear of hard times, small crops, big failures, on the contrary everyone is busy and happy and prosperous to a degree never before even imaginable and the actual reality of our success is felt in

the pulse-beat of every reader and prospective readers of COMFORT in this great wide round world.

HOPE YOU WILL RENEW.

But in our closing remarks, if we are not to be in further correspondence with you or have the pleasure of your subscription for another year, we will heartily wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous year for 1902, the second of this Century, and we hope that it may develop as the months roll by many many occurrences of good fortune for you.

EDITORIAL CHATS.

The opening of a new Congress is always interesting to the American people. December is the time when Washington really wakes up and the wheels of government begin to turn.

The Society of American Women in London is a comparatively new club but one that has done much to convince the English people of the all around ability of American women. Ambassador Choate declared that they had recently held the most notable function ever held in London.

There is a touch of savagery in our wholesale indiscriminating admiration of what we consider bravery. Unfortunately we are apt to consider the man brave who is only reckless. There are many people who are not candid enough or brave enough to say "I am afraid." The man who says that, feels it, but goes on, hesitating to perform the act that his reason tells him is necessary as the really brave man. He has conquered himself and that is an act that even the best sometimes fail to accomplish.

The journalists of America are to have a home all to themselves. This is not a charity but a place where the worker who has kept the world supplied with the facts of the daily battle may rest. It is located in New Orange, a suburb of New York. The newspaper people aim to have one of the finest libraries in the world at this home; to have rooms where the busy ones may work in quiet, and rooms where those whose usefulness is over may be comfortable. It is the only place of its kind in the world and will supply a long felt need.

The parlor car travel during the holiday season is said to be a good thermometer of the financial condition of the country. This year the demand for luxurious accommodations exceeds the limit of the possible supply. Every one is rich enough to go home and to go in good style. The man or woman may economize all the year but when the face is turned toward the old home, human nature asserts itself. We wish to show in that most difficult of lands, our "ain countrie", that the world beyond the hills has dealt kindly with us. For this reason all the parlor car seats and sleepers will be filled with those seeking holiday joys.

The American people have been so busy in welcoming the coming, speeding the parting Irish guest who came after "the cup" that they seem to have forgotten an old trait of human nature. We have hardly had time to congratulate Columbia. In fact all the bouquets and ribboned wreaths have been for the defeated. We have all been like Whittier's little heroine who was "sorry that I spelt the word, I hate to go above you, because, the brown eyes lower fell, because, you see I love." This may be courtesy but it is certainly not sport. The surest way to rob all future contests for the cup of any element of sport or excitement is to put ourselves in the attitude of sighing for defeat.

An institute for the study of the Russian language has been established in London. We have established a chair for the study of the Chinese language. Both those difficult languages are now necessary in a thorough commercial education. The future history-making events may be looked for through the Slav and the Mongolian. It is these two races that are the only ones that are not traced back to the Aryan. The Celt, the Teuton and the Anglo-Saxon have dominated the history of the world. It is a significant fact when the aggressive commercialism of the Anglo-Saxon forces him to endeavor to acquire the languages of the two great nations that seem to be relics of outgrown ideas of government.

Andrew Carnegie has developed and extended the library craze within the last decade. Libraries, books, authors and readers have increased at a rate that is simply phenomenal. The more conservative portion of the people are led to wonder if a thinking public is keeping pace with a reading public. The passion for reading seems to have broken all bounds and whether on street cars or traveling, in city, town or lonely farmhouse the average American seems absorbed in a newspaper, magazine or book. Language may have been given to many to conceal his thoughts, as the wicked and witty old Frenchman asserted, but the written language seems to be developing the faculty of deadening thought. Reading is becoming a narcotic rather than a stimulant. The old command to "read, learn, and inwardly digest" has been subject to the modern process of elimination and we "read" only. We are in danger of losing all simplicity and vigor of thought by the enervating process of excessive reading. The mind of the public might regain a healthy tone by being subjected to a mental fast. We shall lose our eyes, our ears,

and our voices through lack of exercise. We are too subjective, no not even that, our minds are becoming thoroughfares through which all the beggars of the written words are allowed to pass. Think more, read less!

A representative of our government has just gone to France to examine the details of mushroom culture, with the idea of developing the industry in the United States. There is a growing interest and knowledge of the wild edible fungi of America but it is still too limited to be of any great practical value to the poorer people of the country. The French peasant understands fully the food value of mushrooms and is taught to know the edible varieties. With us the taste for mushrooms as a food is confined almost entirely to cities, and the markets are furnished from the mushrooms grown in cellars. A few women have succeeded in establishing a business through the culture of a few varieties. The demand is so far in excess of the supply that the price is still high enough to class mushrooms as a luxury. This, in spite of the fact that the process and growth is comparatively inexpensive. It is hoped that this visit to France may increase our knowledge so that the growth of mushrooms may become a considerable industry. The use of those that grow wild should be taught in the schools. The characteristics of certain edible varieties are so marked that a knowledge of the mushroom is quickly obtained. The poisonous kind is yet more easily distinguished. Any attempt to extend a knowledge of this delicious food should be encouraged.

Men seem to have awakened to an overwhelming discontent with the way the Lord has separated the land from the water on this earth. The commerce of today is upsetting political conditions and is no longer content with physical ones. The English have never been able to bring Ireland near to England politically but now there is a demand for physical nearness. A tunnel is proposed which shall connect Scotland and Ireland at a point where the two coasts lie within about twenty-five miles of each other. It is claimed that the tunnel could be constructed in twelve years and at a cost not to exceed \$50,000,000. It is hoped that the Isthmian canal which shall connect the Atlantic and the Pacific may be constructed in less than that time. A list of the canals, tunnels and dams that are altering the physical appearance of the earth would awaken wonder at the vast undertakings that have sprung from the necessities of man's life upon the earth. Man may confidently be said to have conquered his environment. When he has tunneled and dug and tore up mother earth until she will have to establish her identity by means of the old nursery rhyme, "If I be I, as I hopes I be," he may turn his attention to reaching other worlds. The airship that has sailed around the Eiffel Tower has certainly proven that the a, b, c's of aerial navigation have been successfully conquered. If man overcomes the air with the same advance he has shown in dealing with the limitation that the physical surface of the earth has endeavored to impose, he will be visiting Mars and the Moon before the end of the century.

The discussion over the possibilities of a change in the tenor of government because of a change in the personality of our chief executive is most prevalent just at the opening of the new congress. The general public and the press seem to ignore one important fact. The choice of a Speaker of the House is far more important in its possible effect on legislation than the fact that President Roosevelt instead of President McKinley stands at the head of the nation. The unwritten authority which precedent has given to the Speaker of the House of Representatives makes him in many ways the most powerful factor in our law making. He is conceded to be next to the President in influence and he is actually in possession of more direct power. This power of the Speaker was probably not intended by the makers of the constitution. It is not even necessary by the provisions of that document, that the Speaker be a member of the House. The constitution states that the House may appoint its speaker and other officers. The "other officers" are never members of the House but custom has decreed that the Speaker shall be and the same custom has thrown into the hands of this one man an almost absolute control over the possible legislation of the nation. The House is divided into at least forty committees. All of the topics likely to be subjects for legislation are given a committee. The Speaker appoints these committees. They must be bi-partisan but the party in power always has the majority in all important committees. If the Speaker has any personal views concerning a law it is easy for him to choose a committee that will be in sympathy with him. All bills that come before the House must first pass through the hands of a committee in order to gain a hearing before the House as a whole. The power thus given the Speaker is one of vast importance and he can literally prevent the policy of any President from being carried out by the process of committee making. The tendency in modern government is toward the gain of power by the legislature at the expense of the executive authority, and our government furnishes the most marked illustration of this.

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30 LOVELY CARDS with your name printed on all. 20 songs with Music, 6 Photos, 60 Magic Secrets, 60 Instructions, 60 puzzles with Solutions, 101 Cossardans, 50 Games, 400 Jokes, 100 Money-making Secrets, 100 Valuable Receipts, 255 Albums and Love Verses, 18 Complete Stories, 80 Girls' Cards, Silk Fringe, etc., all 10c. TUTTLE BROS. CO., BOX 8, TOTOKET, OON.

This Beautiful TURQUOISE or LOVER'S KNOT BANGLE KING, weighted three pounds, 14 inches long, 1 1/2 inches wide, and 1/2 inch thick. Send 25c. for postpaid. TUTTLE BROS. CO., BOX 8, TOTOKET, OON. FREE

O FOR THE DEAR, DEAR FACES.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY MRS. CHARLOTTE ROBINSON CHIDSEY.

Andante.

1. O, for the dear, dear fa - ces, those fa - ces heav'n - ly
 2. O, for the sound of those footsteps, foot - steps of long a -

sweet, Oft touch'd with ten - der pi - ty, Oft wreath'd in smiles to greet. O, for the gen - tle voi - ces I
 go I hear them in the twi-light hour, Pass - ing soft and low. Could I but lin - ger once a - gain A -

rit. a tempo.

knew so well of yore, I seem to hear them lov - ing, kind, Call - ing me ev - er - more; Then in the gen - tle
 round the old, old place, And hear a sweet voice from with - in So soft - ly sing - ing Sweet songs that tell of

rit. a tempo.

twi - light gray, When eve - ning sha - dows fall, They seem to mur - mur pa - tience,
 rest and home, Sweet songs of peace and love. O, it were but a joy too

rit. a tempo.

D.C. 

3. Time ling - 'ring pass - es slow - ly on, Shall I see heav'n's bright por -
 great, for aught but heav'n a - bove.

After 2nd verse.

cres. rall. a tempo.

tal O - pen on that hap - py morn and those fa - ces dear im - mor - tal? The an - swer com - eth clear and

cres. rall. a tempo.

sweet, Child, thou need'st not fear it, He that ev - er faith - ful is shall all things in - her - it.



THIS ELECTRIC BELT FREE TO YOU.

Don't pay \$25 or more for an Electric Belt not half as good as the Supreme, which we will send you if you write to-day ABSOLUTELY FREE. Don't waste your money on worthless belts. We want you to know what the Supreme will do; it would take pages of this publication in which to print a small percentage of the letters of praise and thanks which we have received; but you can convince yourself of its wonderful curative powers if you are prompt. We place one free in each community, knowing that when once used it will be advertised by the man whom it has cured, although we do not even ask you to do this. In fact, this offer has no "strings" to it; the belt is yours without one cent of cost, yours to keep forever; there is no obligation whatever on your part.

The Supreme Electric Belt cures all forms of weaknesses in men. It cures Nervous Troubles, Lost Vision, Varicose, Lame Back, Lumbar, Headaches, Lost Memory, Rheumatism and all forms of Kidney and Urinary diseases. Write to-day for the FREE BELT—The Best Electric Belt Made. No money is required; no deposit. It will be sent you at once. Don't throw your money away on other belts when you can get the best there is without a cent of cost. Address, PHYSICIANS' INSTITUTE, 2124 Masonic Temple, CHICAGO, ILLS.

DON'T PAY MONEY FOR A BELT—You can have the best one ever made ABSOLUTELY FREE



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

KING Edward has been an enthusiastic champion of the bicycle for years. Now he has had the finest automobile in the world made for him. A correspondent says:

"I was fortunate in finding the manager of M. Serpollett's establishment, and he kindly told me one or two things regarding the most important order the firm has yet received. The vehicle now being made for His Majesty will be a nine-horse-power Gardner-Serpollett phaeton, light and elegant, and capable, should the king be in a hurry, of getting over the ground at the rate of fifty miles an hour. It is a slightly reduced model of the twelve-horse-power carriage with which M. Serpollett at Nice did one hundred and two kilometres (over sixty-three miles) in an hour, the greatest speed yet attained by an automobile. It is to be the finest 'voiture de luxe' ever constructed. It will have accommodations for four persons, and the motive power will be supplied by paraffine. The motion of the car will be smoother than that of an electric vehicle; it will be noiseless and odorless, and there will be a total absence of vibration. 'In fact,' said the manager, 'it is just as if one were seated in an arm chair, a circumstance that has led to the Serpolletts being called by our customers "les Silencieuses".'

"Nearly all the metal parts of the carriage are of the finest steel, and the body of the vehicle painted red. It is an open carriage, but so constructed that it can be closed in bad weather, and cost about six hundred or six hundred and fifty pounds. His Majesty takes a great interest in his new motor-car, and gave personal directions concerning the plans of the royal automobile."

The smallest "auto" in the world was at the Pan American Exposition and was the property of Chiquita, the Cuban atom of humanity,

that when he has put ten-inch tires on it, with teeth to them to catch the ground, it will be a success.

What a difference between the bike of 1882 and the bike of 1902! The now obsolete Columbia Light Roadster marked the era between 1882 and the advent of the Safety. Every essential of the perfection of its type was combined in this machine, and not a few of the older devotees of the sport who have followed the bicycle through all its fluctuations associate the "good old Ordinary" with their most pleasant reminiscences. From its inception until its final capitulation in competition with the unpretentious safety, such improvements as were made from year to year were merely in the line of slight modifications in weight. If we acknowledge that the high grade models of the coming year are as near perfection as is possible to the type, and with an unimportant reservation affecting slight details the quality between the two is emphasized.

Perhaps the best example of a modern bicycle to choose as the parent of our matured idea was the safety of 1889 with spring front fork and cushion tire.

Then the Dunlop pneumatic tire created a genuine sensation in England, but was not long a curiosity in America where its fame had preceded it. It was a bit of favorite humor with the first riders to adopt the innovation, to advise those of more cautious inclination never to try the pneumatic until they were ready to renounce their former faith. Nowadays the fine sicle model constructed for a solid rubber tire would be worth its weight in junk and no more.

Every important feature has been carried to opposite extremes in order to obtain the happy medium, and possibly with an ulterior motive of keeping the public curiosity whetted by constantly changing fashions. But now there is no longer need to perpetuate that expensive custom of adopting a radically different design

a tremendous amount of abuse, but its length of serviceable life still depends very much upon the watchful regard and attention of its owner. Bad adjustments cause improper strains and may result in disastrous breakage; want of lubrication leads to destructive gear.

Mud should be removed from the frame while still damp, as after it becomes dry and hard, its removal is liable to cause injury to the enamel. When it has been allowed to harden upon the enamel, a wet carriage sponge may be advantageously used in getting it off.

Do not allow oil to collect on the enamel, as in time it will affect it; neither should oil be allowed to touch the tires. Do not use oil lavishly. Little and often is a good rule.

The traveler by wheel is independent; he is not answerable to the demands of the general public, nor subjected to the delays of annoyances through the instability of equine soundness or health.

Every rider who wishes to have his or her machine perform its full ratio of useful work should be able to tell when it is in good running order, and know what to do to maintain it in such order.

If you add a little salt to the water you use in your acetylene lamp it will have a tendency to prevent freezing and possibly save you considerable annoyance.

Don't ride a wheel for the ostensible purpose of seeing how many miles of road you can cover in a given time. Ride because it is a means of healthful, exhilarating and joyous pleasure, and you will never regret it.

Next to disputing the right of way with a world train one of the most dangerous things a rider can do is to coast with a brakeless bicycle.

NEW CURE FOR FITS

If you suffer from Epileptic Fits, Falling Sickness or St. Vitus' Dance, or have children or friends that do so, my New Discovery will CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for my FREE REMEDIES and try them. They have cured thousands where everything else failed. Sent absolutely free with complete directions, express prepaid. Please give AGE and full address.

DR. W. H. MAY, 94 Pine Street, New York City.

MEN WANTED to learn barber trade, only eight weeks required. Graduates earn \$60 monthly, tools presented, board included, wages while learning. Write branch nearest. J. MOLER SYSTEM BARBER COLLEGES, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Omaha or Buffalo.

CATALOGUE all the latest Novelties free. Very low prices. Beautiful Cigar Case, pure Aluminum, by mail 25 cents. Dept. 51. National Mercantile & Mfg. Co., Richmond, Ind.

MORPHINE Trial Treatment for Morphine Opium, other drug habit, Painless, permanent Home Cure. Contains great vital principle lacking in all others. Confidential. St. Paul Association, 48 Van Buren St., Chicago.

NO SPAVINS The worst possible spavin can be cured in 45 minutes. Ringbones, Curbs and Splints just as quick. Not painful and never has failed. Detailed information about this new method sent free to horse owners. Write today. Ask for pamphlet No. 63. Fleming Bros., Chemists, Union Stock Yds., Chicago.

CAPT. COLLINGS RUPTURE. Wonderful Cure for RUPTURE.

Send your name and address to Capt. W. A. Collings, Box 303, Smithville, N.Y., and he will send you FREE BY MAIL a trial of his wonderful treatment that cured him and has cured hundreds of others. Do not delay, but write today. Capt. Collings had a remarkable experience with rupture and will gladly relate the details and send a free trial. **WRITE HIM.**

FREE OFFER. To quickly introduce our Healer of all Wounds, Oxiene Arniae Court Plaster. Will send seven wallets FREE. Each handy pocket wallet contains an assorted lot of different colored court plaster and although a regular Mc. store sale article you sell them for only 5c each. Every person will buy a package of "HEALS ALL WOUNDS" save those of the heart. Send us the money after you sell the seven wallets and we will send you a Hero Knife free, postage paid. These knives are now sold at 50c each. You can get and cure are warranted O. K. Girls Look! If you prefer a smaller or Ladies Knife we will send one instead of the Hero. Address Arniae Court Plaster Co., Box 798, Augusta, Maine.

37 PIECE GLASS WARE TABLE SET

Given for a Club of Only Eight.

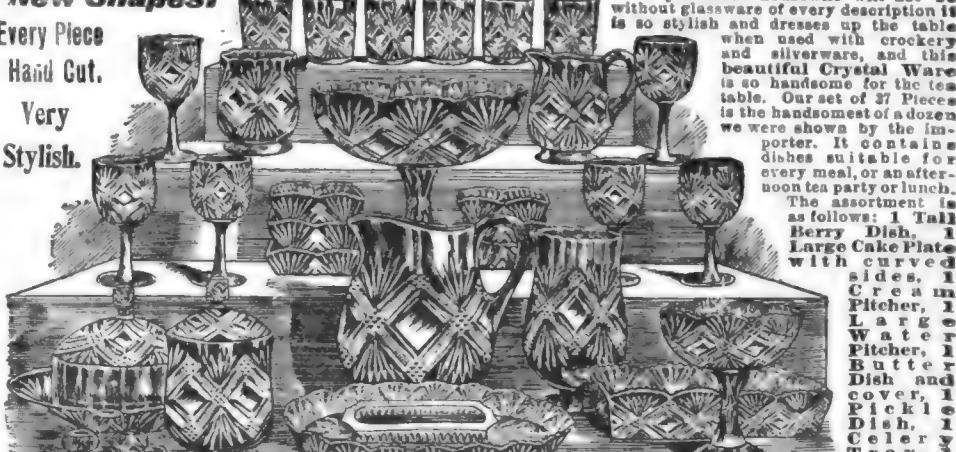
New Shapes.

Every Piece

Hand Cut.

Very

Stylish.



Dish, 1 Sugar Bowl and cover, 1 Tall Jelly Dish, 6 Individual Salt Holders, 6 Goblets, 6 Tumblers, 8 Berry or Ice Cream Dishes. For a short time we are to make low prices on this ware and it is best that you send your order early. For a club of only eight new trial yearly subscriptions to this paper at 25c. each per year, we will send our magazine one year to each subscriber and the Glass Set to you as a free premium for your effort. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



Everyone well pleased with what they ordered. Like my tea set very much; much nicer than any I have seen.
MISS MOLLIE COX, Teron, Kans.

Good success delivering goods; am delighted with my skirt. Address me at Cleveland, Texas, in future.
MRS. M. M. WOOD.



KITCHEN CHATS
CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HERE are so many inquiries from our readers for menus for luncheons that will not cost a great deal, that we are going to answer them by giving one for six guests, at a cost of four dollars and a half. It is so hard to tell what people consider as costing "a great deal" that we hope this will fit in with the ideas and wishes of some of our inquirers, and if more elaborate and expensive menus are required we shall be glad to give them. Of course this is a timely menu,—one to be used in the game season. When used at another time of the year croquettes could be substituted for the bird course.

Regarding, also, the Concord cream. This is the grape season also, and later or earlier it would be difficult to procure unfermented grape juice,—so cream or ice of another flavor would have to be served. For this reason, it is often difficult to give a luncheon or dinner menu which is suitable for all seasons and for all parts of this country, which has such a varied climate and therefore such varied fruits and vegetables. Our readers in the extreme south and north will, of course, take these things into consideration when reading our suggestions and recipes.

CREAM OF SCALLOP SOUP.

Wash one quart scallops, reserve one-half cup, and finely chop remainder. Add chopped scallops to one quart milk, and cook slowly twenty minutes with two cloves, a bit of bay-leaf, one-fourth teaspoon peppercorns, one tablespoon chopped onion, and two tablespoons butter. Strain and thicken with three tablespoons butter and one-fourth cup flour cooked together. Parboil one-half cup scallops, add to soup and serve with dinner biscuits or oysters.

FISH A LA DENVER.

Separate cold boiled halibut in flakes, moisten with one cup thick white sauce made of three tablespoons butter, one-third cup flour and one cup scalded milk; season highly with salt, cayenne and lemon juice. Cool, shape in form of fishes, dip in crumbs, egg, and again in crumbs, and fry in deep fat. Drain on brown paper and serve with

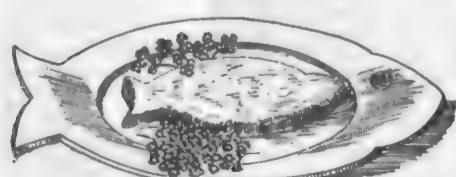
HOLLANDAISE SAUCE.

Wash one-third cup butter and divide into three parts. Put one piece in a sauce-pan with one-half tablespoon vinegar and the yolks of two eggs. Cook over hot water until butter begins to melt, then add second piece, and when that is melted, third piece. Remove from range as soon as thickened and season with one-fourth teaspoon salt, a few grains cayenne and tomato catsup.

We have already explained how to wash butter.

SWEETBREAD IN PEPPERS.

Parboil one pair sweetbreads, cool and cut in small pieces; there should be one cup. Melt two tablespoons butter, add two tablespoons flour and one-half cup chicken stock. As soon as boiling point is reached add one-fourth cup heavy cream, the sweetbread and one-fourth cup mushrooms. Season with salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce. Remove a slice from the stem end of six peppers, remove seeds and parboil peppers fifteen minutes. Cool, fill, cover with buttered crumbs and bake in a hot oven until crumbs are brown. Serve with or



FISH A LA DENVER.

without a sauce. If sweetbreads are not obtainable, use the white meat of boiled chicken cut in small pieces.

Of course everyone knows what a Canape is, but for fear some may not, and therefore would not understand the following recipe, we will

FREE

CHINA DINNER SET

FOR A FEW HOURS' PLEASANT WORK SELLING OUR QUEEN BAKING POWDER. Our inducements are enormous. To every purchaser of a pound can Queen Baking Powder we give **FREE** a beautiful PITCHER AND 6 GLASSES to match, later add a saucer. (Illustration.) The pitcher weighs 15 pounds, cans Queen Baking Powder giving free to purchaser of a pound of Baking Powder, we will make a present of a handsome **50-PIECE DINNER SET**, full size tableware, handsomely decorated and gold traced. We also give Waist, Skirts, Jackets, Furniture, Sewing Machines, Musical Instruments, or any article you wish for selling our groceries. We also give cash commission. Write today for our illustrated plans offering many valuable premiums to customers; it will pay you. No money required. You risk absolutely nothing, as we send you the goods and premium you select, pay the freight and allow you sufficient time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. Write today for the easiest plan on earth to get anything you want absolutely free.

AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., Department 67, 808 and 808 North Main Street, ST. LOUIS, MO.



a pitcher and six glasses to each present of a handsome **50-PIECE DINNER SET**, full size tableware, handsomely decorated and gold traced. We also give Waist, Skirts, Jackets, Furniture, Sewing Machines, Musical Instruments, or any article you wish for selling our groceries. We also give cash commission. Write today for our illustrated plans offering many valuable premiums to customers; it will pay you. No money required. You risk absolutely nothing, as we send you the goods and premium you select, pay the freight and allow you sufficient time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. Write today for the easiest plan on earth to get anything you want absolutely free.

AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., Department 67, 808 and 808 North Main Street, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Your goods come promptly to hand; are most elegant. My premium was really fine. I am much pleased with your easy plan.
MISS INEZ POLLARD, Langston City, Okla.

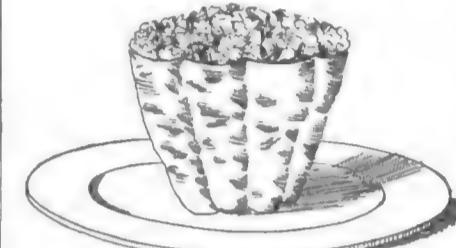
Please accept my heartfelt thanks for those lovely dishes. You do not know how I appreciate them. I can not thank you enough. Hope that God above will bless you is my praise.
MISS EUNICE DANIELS, McComb City, Miss.

I am more than pleased with the dinner set; they are simply handsome; words fail to tell how pleased I am with them.
MISS ETTA L. TIMMERMAN, Marietta, Ill.

say that a Canape is simply a piece of toast upon which has been piled and browned some sort of a mixture of minced meat, fish or fowl, with seasoning. Canapes are served at evening suppers where the chafing dish is used, though not made in the chafing dish. They are also served in a course luncheon with nothing but the mixture on top. In the present case this course is made more hearty by adding a bird.

BIRDS ON CANAPES.

Split birds and steam until tender. Season with salt and pepper, and spread with four tablespoons butter stirred until creamy and mixed with three tablespoons flour. Cook in



SWEETBREAD IN PEPPERS.

a hot oven until well browned. Chop six chickens' livers, season with salt, pepper and onion juice, moisten with butter and add one teaspoon finely-chopped parsley. Spread mixture on six pieces of toasted bread and place in a hot oven. As soon as thoroughly heated put a bird on each canape and garnish with parsley.

CELERY SALAD.

Clean celery and cut in small pieces. Let stand in ice water, allowing one slice of lemon to a bunch of celery. Drain as dry as possible, mix with French dressing and serve with lettuce, cress, or chicory.

We have several times spoken of curled celery, explaining how it is done. If our readers haven't read our description of how to do it we shall be glad to explain and illustrate it again, as it makes such a desirable garnish for so many kinds of salad.

Of course you all know that French dressing is a mixture of one-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon paprika, two tablespoons vinegar and four tablespoons olive oil.

CONCORD CREAM.

Mix one pint cream, one and one-fourth cups unfermented grape juice and one-third cup sugar. Add lemon or fresh lime juice to taste. Freeze and serve, garnished with whipped cream sprinkled with finely-chopped pistachio nuts.

This cream may be served as illustrated, in a small straight glass, which stands on a green grape leaf in a plate, or may be served on a flat dish very daintily. Take the cream out of the freezer with a large spoon, and have it look like the bowl of the spoon as it lies on the plate. Then fill a pastry bag with whipped cream which has been sweetened and flavored with one-third teaspoon lemon and two-thirds teaspoon vanilla flavoring. Cover the cream



CONCORD CREAM.

from end to end with a ruffly covering of the cream, and sprinkle powdered pistachio nuts on top.

NINE-TENTHS of the people of Porto Rico are miserably poor. The nominal wages of the laboring classes is fifty centavos per day, or about thirty cents of our money; and this is for first-class labor. Even this is not paid in money, but in little disks of a certain size which can only be exchanged for goods at the store of the employer.

THE COMICAL MIRROR.

Greatest joke of the season. Perpetual fun. Can't be resisted, everyone interested and when they "Rubber" you laugh, and when they laugh it won't be so funny for them. Two ways to work it. Two kinds of fun. The lean look fat, the fat look lean. A substantial, well-made novelty. Going with a rush everywhere. Send 2 two cent stamps for special agents sample and you won't regret it.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

LADIES AT HOME

and you can readily do the same, for the work is pleasant and will easily pay \$18 weekly. I have often made \$5 a day. Even your spare time is valuable. This is no deception, I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

SPECIAL BARGAIN
To introduce our new goods we send this beautiful Stone Garnet and Topaz Ring in fine gold plate, also 25 Choice Silk Squares, 1 Gold Plate stone set Bracelet, 1 yd. Silk Ribbon, 1 Pretty Shell Necklace, 10 Vignette Pictures and our big bargain price list, all postpaid, only 10 cents. Address: H. C. BUCHANAN & CO., Dept. A, 58 Ann St., New York.

SAVES HOURS OF TIME AND GALLONS OF OIL

This is the "Takke" Fire Kindler, probably the greatest labor-saver for the home ever invented. Does away with picking up chips. Does away with whittling shavings. Does away with making "kindlings." Does away with explosions. Fastest Seller for Agents Ever Put on the Market. Clarence J. Smith, Middletown, Md., agent for Fredericksburg County, has sold over \$600.00 worth. A. J. Keifer, of Plymouth, Ind., has sold 500 Kindlers in Marshall County. J. G. Armstrong for 50 more Kindlers. Am selling more than ever now. Miss Glenn Young, Lampasas, Texas, writes: "Ship me another hundred."

hundred by express. Quick. Am sold out. We Want an Agent for every County in the United States. Hurry and secure the agency, write us enclosing (full size, weight one-half pound, length 24 inches). Make this offer to anyone honestly desiring to handle these goods if our terms are satisfactory. If we already have an active agent in your county your money will be returned. No Kindlers are retailed to consumers from the factory. We supply agents. Write quick if you want a county. Address plainly,

Builds 100 free with 5 cents worth of coal oil or kerosene. AGENTS WANTED

This is the "Takke" Fire Kindler, probably the greatest labor-saver for the home ever invented. Does away with picking up chips. Does away with whittling shavings. Does away with making "kindlings." Does away with explosions. Fastest Seller for Agents Ever Put on the Market. Clarence J. Smith, Middletown, Md., agent for Fredericksburg County, has sold over \$600.00 worth. A. J. Keifer, of Plymouth, Ind., has sold 500 Kindlers in Marshall County. J. G. Armstrong for 50 more Kindlers. Am selling more than ever now. Miss Glenn Young, Lampasas, Texas, writes: "Ship me another hundred by express. Quick. Am sold out. We Want an Agent for every County in the United States. Hurry and secure the agency, write us enclosing (full size, weight one-half pound, length 24 inches). Make this offer to anyone honestly desiring to handle these goods if our terms are satisfactory. If we already have an active agent in your county your money will be returned. No Kindlers are retailed to consumers from the factory. We supply agents. Write quick if you want a county. Address plainly,

Chocolate.

peculiarity about the chocolate trade is the fact that it is more expensive in South America, where it is produced, than in any other place. In South America the retail price for the better grades averages about \$1 per pound, while in Italy, France, England and in the United States the better grades sell at a much lower price. The reason for this is that the original product is greatly adulterated before reaching its final sale, a cheaper article than the cocoa bean being substituted in a great deal of the ordinary chocolate we use.

Good-bye is an abbreviation of "God be with you."

ICUREFITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., N. Y.

WE GIVE IT FREE
anyone for selling 18 pieces of our handsome jewelry, for 10c. each (each set with an exquisite jewel). Regular price 25c. each. Supply your name and address and price 25c. each, and we will send you the pieces of jewelry postpaid. When sold send us the \$1.00, and we will send you the watch. We trust you and will take back any you cannot sell. We propose to give away these watches simply to advertise our business. No catch-words in this advertisement.

WALTER S. SIMPSON, New York.

"Goo Goo."

The popular "Goo Goo" Winking Eye is what you must wear on your coat or vest if you want to cut out all the other fellows and make the pretty girls. You can engage in conversation and slyly turn back your coat lapel and wink your "Goo Goo" eye so easily you will win the girl and fool the other fellow or if a friend is telling a funny story that is old and stale or not just true, you can bring your winking eye into play.

A NOTTY WINK.

and turn him down without any hard feeling. The eye is strongly made of metal, the front is painted in natural life-like colors and the wink is produced by pulling an invisible string from behind and there is a long strong pin to fasten through your clothing. The whole thing is strong and durable and the most talked about novelty today. Every one is wild for one, every young man in the big cities has one and all the girls too. "Just because she made 'em Goo Gooeyes" is why you should have one, so send 10c. today for a special sample. \$6 for 50c.; 1 doz. \$1.00. Agents make big money. Address LANE & CO., Dept. C, Augusta, Maine.

RICH ART TABLE COVER FREE.

Armenian Needlework Designs So Closely Followed as to Defy Detection.

Rend How You May Get this Splendid Japanese Gift for Your Own Home. The most gifted race in the world with the needle are the Orientals. For centuries the rich and varied designs worked by their hands have been the admiration and delight of lovers of art. A few years ago an American was fortunate enough to invent machinery that would reproduce these rich designs of embossed embroidery and needlework, even to the delicate films of gold-thread work. Still more curious the Japanese obtained plans and made similar machinery, so that they have the addition of "cheap labor" to Yankees and Turkish needlework is imitated so closely that none but the expert, on close examination, reveals the minor points of imitation.

An Art Table Cover Free. We wish to introduce Orien Nasone Salve into thousands of new homes and to accomplish this intend to actually give away these rich and ornamental Table Covers to our friends. We shall send a handsome cover, about two feet and a half square, of the richest and most pleasing designs, and being in appearance like the hand-made covers that Armenian experts sell for \$12 to \$25 each, to one agent in each city or town who will sell for us only two boxes Nasone Salve at 25c. apiece. We send the goods on credit and trust to your honor in returning the money, 50c. We pay postage on this Rich Present the moment your \$50c. arrives. This is the greatest offer ever made, for, besides receiving this Beautiful Art Gift, which will give a whole room an air of luxury and refinement, you learn of other inducements that are rich with money profits and grand presents. Address THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 987, Augusta, Maine.

OPAL WARE BUREAU SET.

Ten Hand-Painted TOILET LUXURIES.



FREE!

Read Carefully.

Our premium goods are always the highest class of merchandise and we take pleasure in calling to your attention our latest addition to the long list of desirable articles offered to our friends as premiums for slight labor in our behalf. My ladies toilet is her one particular personal charm, without the proper furnishings on the dresser it cannot be a pleasure. See what a happy thought this beautiful Bureau Toilet Set was. Can you resist it?

A WORD ABOUT IT. The ware is an entirely new product called Embossed Opal, from its similarity in shade to the famous opal stone. It is a magnificent embossed semi-white ware, very firm, not brittle and made in just the attractive shapes pictured in our illustration. There are ten useful pieces in the complete set. A pair of Jugs 10 inches high and 19 inches in circumference, fitted with stoppers for Toilet Waters or Bay Rum; one large Tray 18 inches long, 9 inches wide, for Comb, Brush and Mirror; another Tray for Tooth Brush, Curlers and knick-knacks; one round cornered Puff Box and an oblong Hair Pin Box. Every article very useful.

THE HAND PAINTING. The decorations on each piece are in natural flower tints violets, pansies, roses, etc., furnishing the subjects, and the colorings are equal to nature's own work. The effect of a beautiful painting of violets in the center of the large tray with Gold embossed edge produces a most charming finish and makes the set a luxury indeed. Every piece has the same color scheme throughout, thus harmonizing the whole beautiful effect. You need not wait for Christmas nor go without anything else to buy one of these sets. We agreed to introduce them for the firm that decorates them and shall send by express, carefully packed, one complete 10-piece Set as a grand free premium for a club of only six trial yearly subscriptions to this monthly at 25c. each.

FOR A CLUB OF 6.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

FISH A LA DENVER.

without a sauce. If sweetbreads are not obtainable, use the white meat of boiled chicken cut in small pieces.

Of course everyone knows what a Canape is, but for fear some may not, and therefore would not understand the following recipe, we will

Some Odd Water-Birds.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



W are told by scientists that there are over ten thousand different kinds of water-birds, and of this vast family there are some peculiar members that are not only dependent on the water for a livelihood, but that are as much at home in and under the water as they are in the air.

The first odd thing that strikes us about some of these aquatic birds is that they are not all web-footed, as is the case. One species that is a little songster belonging to the thrush family, and called the diper or water-ousel. This species is widely distributed, but is usually found in the vicinity of swiftly-flowing mountain streams. Here it darts in and out of rapids, pools and waterfalls with perfect fearlessness and great apparent enjoyment, in search of food. An instance is recorded of a pair of dippers that built their nest under a waterfall, in the vacant space behind where the waterfall leaped from the rock above, and in this strange place successfully raised their brood of young.

While in the water the ouzel uses its wings in the same manner as when flying, and thus makes very rapid progress. Their wings being short and broad are well adapted for this use, the tail is very short and the whole body is covered thick with soft down, which thoroughly protects the bird from the water.

On the approach of an enemy the ouzel always dives and runs along the stream for yards before coming up to breathe. Even the young birds will do this with the greatest confidence.

Sometimes a bird that is not strictly an aquatic bird becomes one in a case of emergency. An instance is related of a king-fisher that was attacked by a king-bird. He started to fly, but was no match for his persistent little tormenter while in the air, so he dove under water, only coming up to float on the surface and then dive again, and in this way escaped.

Another curious bird is the Chinese yakana or water-pheasant, which is almost as much at home under the surface of the water as on the shore. The yakana has long legs and very long toes, which enable it to walk on the pads of lily or lotus that grow near the shore where it finds its food. When searching for food or on the approach of danger the yakana slips under water and walks along the bottom of the stream. When it wishes to conceal itself it makes its way to where the pads are thickest, and thrusting its bill above the surface is enabled to remain in this position indefinitely.

The water-hen, a cousin of the yakana is another bird that is quite at home under water, but does not seem bright enough to adopt the yakana's method of breathing when hiding, and is therefore sometimes drowned. Cases have been known where a water-hen, on being wounded by a hunter, has dived to the bottom of a stream and seizing a tough weed in its bill has held on until death came to prevent being captured.

Another bird with similar habits is the grebe. It is an excellent swimmer and diver and has the same habit the jacana has, of hiding under water, with its bill thrust up above the surface, until danger is over.

The water-hen makes up for its stupidity while under water for the skill it displays in nest building. The nest is placed near the water's edge, but so nicely is the distance calculated that it is seldom flooded by high tides or freshets. A story is told of a pair of water-hens that had a nest with the eggs in it nearly hatched, when an unexpected rise of the water threatened to flood their home. They at once set to work, and by building up underneath, succeeded in raising the nest out of harm's way.

The snake-bird is a Florida bird that swims with only its long neck above the surface, a peculiarity that gives it the appearance of a large snake in the water. We are told that when collecting food for its young the bird swallows the fish it captures, and then the young bird runs its bill down the old one's neck and swallows the fish for its own dinner.

The guillemont, which is sometimes, though incorrectly called a loon, is another aquatic bird that has some interesting habits. The guillemont lays only one egg on the bare cliff of the nesting-ground. When the young are ready to launch out, the guillemont takes the chick on its back, and flying beyond the breaker to the smooth water, drops the youngster

off, quickly dropping beside it to defend it from the rapacious gulls that are always on the alert to snatch the young bird for a meal. The little guillemont soon becomes able to care for themselves however.

Instances of curious water-birds could be multiplied indefinitely, and in fact the whole subject of the habits of our friends of furs, fins, and feathers, as animals, birds and fishes have been called is one of the rarest interest to all Nature lovers.

Wood-Engraving.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE art of wood-engraving is very old, older by some two hundred years than the art of printing. The first use of engravings of any sort of which we have any record are the stamps which the ancient Egyptians used to impress upon bricks. These stamps were made of stone with the inscription cut upon them in high relief, and they were used by the ancient builders in stamping the bricks in the process of making which were used in ancient buildings. Some of these bricks have come down to us at the present day; and there are some specimens of them in the British Museum. Later it became customary to use a sort of engraved stamp for signing documents. Pope Adrian and Charlemagne were among the first known possessors of stamps of this sort.

These early engravings of course were not wood-engravings, but they probably furnished the idea for wood-engravings. The Chinese have for many centuries printed books from blocks engraved on wood, and still use this method at the present day. The first wood-engravings we know anything about among European nations were used by the German playing-card makers, who used to manufacture their wares by this method. Later whole books were made from engraved blocks and are now known as block-books. Religious prints were also issued in considerable numbers, most of them very wide specimens indeed.

With the invention of movable types block-books became a thing of the past, and for a time the art of engraving fell into disuse, but soon the demand for illustrations caused a revival of the art, which began to enjoy a popularity greater than ever before. The engravings of this period were extremely crude, with little or no artistic merit.

In the 16th century an engraver by the name of Durer began to produce work that was far better than anything of the kind that had preceded him. After Durer however the art fell into disuse again until it was revived by an English engraver, Bewick by name, whose work, compared with that of his predecessors was truly wonderful. Even today the lover of wood-engravings finds a great deal to admire in Bewick's work. Bewick lived to a ripe old age and during his life time produced thousands of fine illustrations. From Bewick's time until within a few years wood-engraving flourished, as it was the only way known for

Cures
Goitre

A well-known Cincinnati physician has discovered a remedy that cures Goitre or Thick Neck. And to prove this he sends a free trial package so that patients may try and know positively that Goitre can be cured at home.

Mrs. Ellen A. Glazier, Covington, Ky., was cured after suffering for 28 years; if you wish you are at liberty to write to her. Send your name and address to Dr. John P. Haig, 3142 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, telling him your age, size and location of the goitre and how long you have had it, and he will forward a trial treatment by return mail, postage prepaid.



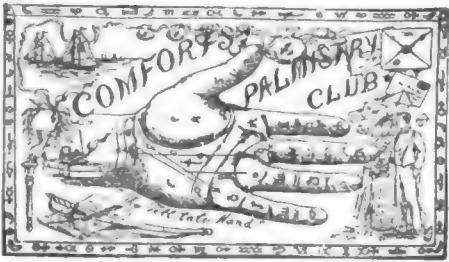
MRS. ELLEN A. GLAZIER.

making illustrations for books and papers, except steel or copper engraving which of course were far too expensive for ordinary work. Wood engravers became very skillful, as the demand for their services increased, and some of the publications of fifteen or twenty years ago contain some beautiful specimens of their work. In order to complete large illustrations quickly it was customary to divide the large block upon which the drawing was made into a number of small pieces which were given to different workmen, and the whole was after- (CONTINUED ON PAGE 22.)

THE CARNEGIE PHILANTHROPY.

An eminent librarian is authority for the statement that "Andrew Carnegie's magnificent benefaction will not only dot the country with free libraries but will greatly stimulate private collections." This is true, for since the above words were spoken the embargo has been lifted from certain excellent copyrighted books through the International Association of Newspapers and Authors, and we invite COMFORT readers to carefully notice the great Free Book offer on page 21.

MARRY 7⁰⁰ are sent for HUSBANDS and WIVESMay 1st, 1902, Postage, 10⁰⁰, The MESSENGER, 8th, CHICAGO, ILL.The MESSENGER, 8th, CHICAGO, ILL.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address, and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve it in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THE present article will have to be given up for the most part to readings, but I trust it will be found helpful to the average club member as well.

K. J. L. has a hand denoting a great deal of character with courage, perseverance and energy. The life line is not very long, ending in the impression I have before me, at about fifty to fifty-five. There will be a decided change in this life between the ages of forty and forty-five and I think a second marriage will take place then. The first marriage, or if not marriage a very close friendship or love affair appears between the ages of eighteen and thirty. The fate line is very good in this hand, indicating excellent success up to the age of fifty, although I do not see many signs of wealth. There is an excellent head line also, showing good sense and business ability with plenty of self-confidence and an evenly balanced mind. The heart line indicates that this subject will be eminently sensible in love affairs, choosing a mate for life from a practical standpoint rather than a sentimental. A good deal of traveling about is indicated, with popularity and many close friendships. I see few signs of trouble, and although the life will be successful, the subject will always work hard.

Hilldrop has a hand that is much more lined than the last one and with very marked characteristics. This person is very ambitious and will marry well. There will be a good deal of trouble in love affairs during the first twenty-five years of her life and she will have one disappointment which will cause her a good deal of anxiety. But she will marry well and her second marriage I think will be happier than

her first. She is very attractive to the opposite sex and will have many suitors and several serious love affairs. In some of these she will be strongly opposed by relatives of either party, but will finally marry according to her ambition and will be quite successful for a while. In middle life she will make a second marriage, which as I have said, will be more successful than the first and will be attended by more wealth. She will travel considerable, although not in this country. She is inclined to be sentimental and sometimes to prevarications. She is also inclined to be melancholy at times, and should strive against this latter feeling. She was much hampered in her youth and had an unhappy childhood; by far the happier and more successful portion of her life will come after she is thirty and she will live to a good old age.

B. O. S. sends an excellent impression, made secure with fixatif so that it is easy to read.

The two preceding ones were very badly blurred. B. O. S. has a hand which shows a good deal of trial and trouble but one in which the fate line rises supreme and by turning diagonally across to the mount of the Sun brings fame and glory to the subject. In early life the childhood was rather repressed and there was a serious love affair before the subject was twenty. There was a distinct break in the life line between the ages of twenty-five and thirty when a very strange circumstance

affected the subject in an unexpected way. I think there was a marriage or a serious love affair at that time but it disappears in the course of a few years, after which the life flows on more placidly and the fate line grows stronger. I think this subject has a great future before her and has talent for the stage. If she were to study for the stage she would be attended with success in proportion to the amount of perseverance which she develops, a quality in which she is somewhat lacking. I think there was some mystery connected with her birth or possibly some scandal or disgrace for which she is not responsible. She will rise superior to it however, and is sure to make her mark in the world either as an actress, a lecturer, a writer or a teacher. She is somewhat sentimentally inclined and if anything a little lacking in regard for truth. She needs to cultivate this quality, to have more courage and to develop patience. It would be better for this person not to marry, although she will have plenty of opportunities. She will have to make her way through difficulties but will succeed and have both fame and money in her old age. I see much traveling for her and a nervous disposition with some rather startling and unusual changes during middle life.

A member of the Club asks for prices of good books on palmistry. Most of the larger books, such as Cheiro's Language of the Hand and Professor Hargett's are two dollars. Heron Allen's is \$1.50 and there are others at from \$1 upwards. If any of you desire these books, it would be well to write to Brentano's, Union Sq., New York.

As there are stars on several of the hands read lately, I will give you the signs of the star according to Heron Allen:

"A star, wherever it appears, is generally the indication of some event we cannot possibly control; it is generally a danger and always something unavoidable. Whether, however, it is good or bad, depends of course upon the aspect of the lines, particularly of the line of fortune. This, however, is fixed—that a star, wherever it is found, always means something

and what that something is, is the task of the chiropist to discover.

On the Mount of Jupiter, it signifies gratified ambition, good luck, honour, love and success. With a cross on this Mount it indicates a happy marriage with some one of brilliant antecedents or high position.

On the Mount of Saturn it indicates a great fatality, generally a very bad one, indicating with corroborative signs, probably murder, and in a criminal or otherwise bad hand a probability of death upon the scaffold.

On the Mount of Apollo, with no line of Apollo in the hand, it betokens wealth without happiness, and celebrity after a hazardous struggle with it. With the line of brilliancy it denotes excessive celebrity, as the combined result of labor and talent; with several lines also on the mount it is a sure indication of wealth.

On the Mount of Mercury it betrays dishonesty and theft. On the Mount of Mars, violence leading to homicide.

On the Mount of the Moon it indicates hypocrisy and dissimulation, with misfortune resulting from excess of the imagination. The old chiromants looked upon this as a warning of death by drowning, and stated that combined with a high mount invaded by the line of the head, it indicated suicide by drowning.

On the base of the Mount of Venus it indicated a misfortune brought about by the influence of women.

On the first (or outer) phalanx of any finger (but especially that of Saturn) a star indicates either strange good luck or else folly. On the third (or lowest) phalanx of the finger, or Saturn, a star warns the subject of a danger of assassination, and if at this point it is joined by the line of Saturn, a disgraceful death is almost inevitable, resulting as a rule from the vice shown elsewhere in the hand.

On the base of the phalanx of logic of the thumb—in fact, on the junction of the phalanx of logic and the Mount of Venus—it points to a misfortune connected with a woman, probably indicating an unhappy marriage, which will be the curse of the subject's whole life unless the Mount of Jupiter be developed, in which case there is a probability that the subject will get over it.

A star on the voyage line indicates with certainty death by drowning.

If a star be found on the center of the quadrangle, the subject, though true and honest as the day, will be the absolute plaything of women, a trait which will result in misfortune, from which, however, he will recover in time."

Thus it will be seen that a star is almost the most important sign to seek for in a hand.

Digitus

EVERY LADY READ THIS.

I will send free a positive cure for all female diseases, irregularities, etc. A simple home treatment, a common sense remedy that never fails. FREE with valuable advice. MRS. L. D. HUDNUT, South Bend, Ind.

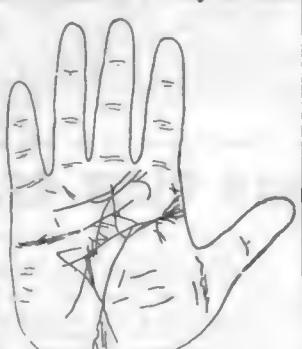
EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS

Send us only 5c. and we send you six gold plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

TO WOMEN WHO DREAD MOTHERHOOD!

Information How They May Give Birth to Happy, Healthy Children Absolutely Without Pain—Sent Free.

No woman need any longer dread the pains of child-birth; or remain childless. Dr. J. H. Dye has devoted his life to relieving the sorrows of women. He has proved that all pain at child-birth may be entirely banished, and he will gladly tell you how it may be done absolutely free of charge. Send your name and address to Dr. J. H. Dye, Box 127, Buffalo, N. Y., and he will send you, postpaid, his wonderful book which tells how to give birth to happy, healthy children, absolutely without pain; also how to cure sterility. Do not delay but write today.



HILLDROP.

PROCLAMATION TO WEAK MEN

Charity, the Noblest Impulse of Man, Exemplified by a Well Known Missourian.

SENT FREE TO ALL MEN!

W. S. Harter, an honored and influential citizen of Nevada, Mo., makes a statement and an overgenerous offer that comes in the shape of a proclamation of health to all afflicted with loss of vitality and its kindred ailments. His case was a most pitiable one, nightly emissions so

thought perhaps the remedy may not prove in every case so wonderfully beneficial as it did in his. For this reason he gave 50 sufferers the treatment, and in every instance the same wonderful results were experienced as was in his case, so he now says he will send every sufferer

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Great American Givers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ANDREW Carnegie the Iron and Steel King of Pittsburgh, while he has been a man of large and general benevolence will be remembered chiefly through the series—it might almost be called a system—of public libraries which he has founded. "The value of the public library as an educational force

in American life" says Mr. William M. Stevenson, Librarian of the Free Library of Allegheny, Pa., "is inestimable. It is the most democratic of all forms of popular recreation. The public library comes closer to the people in this country than any other institution, the aim of which is the uplifting and upbuilding of the masses."

No man has done more to foster this form of popular education than has Andrew Carnegie. He has now aided and founded a score of public libraries and his benefactions in this direction exceed six millions of dollars. This is more than the annual appropriation for Common Schools made by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The libraries founded by Mr. Carnegie have placed in the hands of their readers more than ten million volumes of books. They have refunded for maintenance up to August 1899 a million and a quarter of dollars. The area of their influence extends from Edinburgh, Scotland, in the east, to Fairfield, Iowa, in the west, and from Inverness, Scotland, in the north to Atlanta, Georgia, in the south.

Mr. Carnegie's motto, notwithstanding he is one of our great modern philanthropists is that "God helps those who help themselves." The principles therefore on which his libraries are founded is that the community must support them, wholly, where possible. If not, at least partially, although in one or two instances, notably his beloved city of Allegheny, the gift is absolutely without restriction.

In the short space of ten years, Mr. Carnegie has given twelve library buildings fully equipped with books to as many different communities.

There are thus two classes in Mr. Carnegie's benefaction, the Free Library and the Free Public Library. The former is an absolute gift maintained wholly or in part by the donor, the latter is a free library supported by public taxation. The great institution Allegheny, Pa., is a Free Library of which the entire cost of building and books and for current maintenance and support is contributed by Mr. Carnegie. The Library at Edinburgh, Scotland, is, on the other hand, the largest and most notable in the list of Free Public Libraries that comes under the general head of this remarkable benefaction. Mr. Carnegie is a Scotchman, having been born in the "land o' cakes" in 1837. He came to this country along with the family when only ten years old. Although a mere boy, he was strong and willing, and so got a "job" at once firing a stationary engine. The engine was in a cellar in Allegheny City, Pa. For this work he received twenty cents per day or \$1.20 a week. How many of his fellow-countrymen know that he was once a messenger-boy for the Atlantic & Ohio Telegraph Company? Here he got \$2.50 a week. Thence he graduated to "the key" and became in a short time an expert operator—in itself a sort of liberal education. At fourteen when his father died, he was the sole support of his mother and brother. He had remarkable precocity and having been appointed telegraph operator on the Pennsylvania Railroad while still a youth, he actually rose to the position of Director before he was twenty-one. His wonderful sagacity early attracted the attention of Col. Thomas A. Scott the famous first President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The development of the coal, oil, coke, iron and steel industries of Pennsylvania from this period is largely the personal history of Thomas A. Scott and Andrew Carnegie. I place the former's name first only because he has passed away. Of course railway expansion was growing by leaps in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during this time and incidentally Mr. Carnegie and not Geo. M. Pullman as is generally supposed, developed and introduced the first sleeping-car in America under the Woodruff System. When the war broke out, though still under twenty-five years of age, he was placed in charge of the military railways of the Government. At the conclusion of the war he traveled for a year to restore his health, meanwhile studying Economic conditions abroad. On his return he founded the great iron and steel interests with which his fame is most widely connected. Mr. Carnegie, unlike many other builders and owners of great fortunes is a conspicuous benefactor in other ways. Although he has never held public office he is a public spirited citizen of the highest and broadest type. A man from whom an important public utterance may be expected when any great issue is pending. Perhaps nothing is more explanatory of the man and his success than that he had all his life been a close student of men and affairs; of life, of literature, even of the arts.

A recent writer pays him this tribute: "With but rudimentary education he has become a facile writer, a ready speaker, well informed on social, political and philosophical questions, the practical matters so closely related to human happiness and progress."

Probably no man has wasted fewer hours in a long and useful life than Andrew Carnegie. Even his outings have been made famous and profitable to the public. His "American Four-In-Hand In Britain," the record of a coaching trip through the British Isles, has had a large public sale, and by sheer force of literary charm it became, when published, a generally popular book. When he speaks on public questions with his pen, he commands an audience that is only bounded by the confines of civilization. His "Triumphant Democracy" has sold fifty thousand copies, and he is a contributor of much force and moment to the leading English and American reviews.

Mr. Carnegie's public benefactions including the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh and his series of libraries are upwards of ten millions of dollars and are being constantly added to. He is an eminent example of that noble spectacle which is represented in America by several

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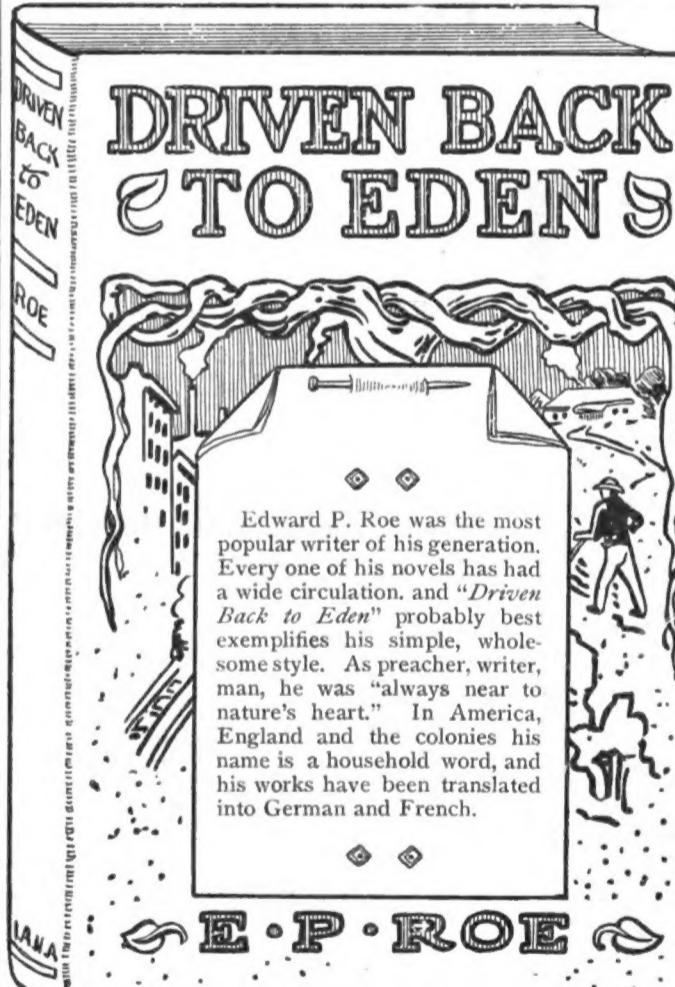
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130. "Mademoiselle de Berny," by Pauline Bradford Mackie (author of "A Georgian Actress")—A romance of Valley Forge and gay Philadelphia.
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136. "People of Our Neighborhood," by Mary E. Wilkins (author of "A Humble Romance" and famous for her New England stories.
137. "Under the Great Bear," by Kirk Munroe (author of "The White Conquerors")—Story of adventure in Labrador and the Arctic Sea.
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139. "With the Best Intentions," by Marion Harland (author of "Judith")—A Mid-summer episode.
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other men; of great wealth being wisely disposed for the benefit of posterity by its own creator during his lifetime. It is not unlikely, judging from present appearances, that Andrew Carnegie will thus invest the larger part of his fortune himself before he dies.

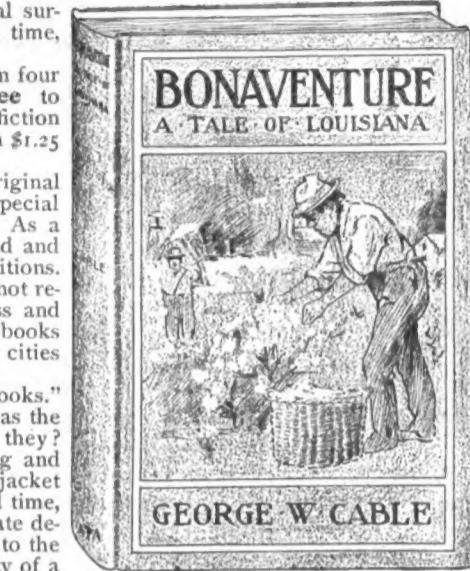
To clear the island of Cuba from the germs of yellow fever will be a long, hard fight. The soil is saturated with them; the marshes are their breeding places, and the hot, moist atmosphere there gives them vitality; and the filth of the communities harbors them, and the personal carelessness of the people invites them.

OR several years oil has been used in some towns to lay the dust on the streets in summer, and also improve them in quality. This expedient has also been used by a number of eastern railroads to lay the dust on the roadbed and therefore add to the comfort of its patrons.

When the oil first touches the dust-covered street it spreads out among the atoms as it does when dropped upon water. When a quantity of oil has been spread and the surface of the street is covered, the oil gravitates down through the

dust and cakes the entire surface of the street. The sun dries out and hardens the surface, and a splendid road, almost as hard as asphalt is the result, with all the dirt and dust imprisoned under the hard upper crust.

ONE of the curiosities of the Bank of England is to be seen in its printing room, where is a machine which every three minutes delivers to a man sitting at his desk two completely finished five-pound notes. In six hours this man receives in this way, seventy thousand pounds, and in a year he has gathered in notes amounting to over twenty million pounds, or about one hundred million dollars.



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wards fastened together with bolts.

Recently several processes combining photography with etching have come into vogue, and furnished a cheap and effective way of producing illustrations. Some beautiful effects have been obtained by means of these illustrations, and they are certainly invaluable in a great many ways. Cheap reproductions of painting and scenes from nature have been possible, and hardly a magazine or book is issued now-a-days that is not filled with these illustrations.

At the same time the lovers of the beautiful and artistic in fine book-making have never been quite satisfied with the new order of things, and though of recent years wood-engraving has become much less common, it has never lost its admirers. For years the leading publishers have employed wood-engravers to re-touch copper process cuts, and give them the artistic feeling and individuality that the originals lacked. At the present day the wood-engraver's art seems to be on the increase, rather than sinking into oblivion.

As a pastime, wood-engraving will be found very fascinating for those who care to try it. Boxwood or maple is the material used; boxwood is better for fine work though maple will

serve the beginner's purpose quite as well. The best boxwood comes from Turkey, though very good wood is also grown in America. It is cut across the grain so that the engraver works on the end of the wood fibres. It may be bought all ready prepared in any of our large cities and costs from one cent an inch for maple up to ten or fifteen cents an inch for the best imported boxwood. For implements the beginner will require four or five gravers of different shapes, a small oil-stone for sharpening the tools, a leather pad upon which to rest the work, and a magnifying glass of moderate power supported on a standard, and adjustable as to height. The whole outfit need not cost more than four or five dollars.

The first step is to prepare the block for use, and this is done by painting it over with a thin coat of Chinese white. The drawing may now be drawn or traced directly on the wood. It is best for a first attempt to start with some drawing that contains only a few coarse lines. After the drawing is traced it may be gone over carefully with India ink. In tracing the drawing care should be taken to have it the reverse of the way it is to appear in the finished print, so that letters and figures will appear as they are in the original.

After the drawing is complete the block is placed on the pad and held with one hand, while the other hand works with the graver, cutting away all the wood from the black lines, and leaving the drawing in relief. Great care must be taken not to let the tool slip, as every scratch that marks the black lines of the drawing will show in the finished print. It is necessary first to outline the work with very fine lines of the graver, and then to clear away the waste wood taking care not to let the tool bear on the edge of any finished line, as the marks will show in the print.

There are a number of different kinds of gravers, but the beginner will need only three or four; graver for cutting very fine lines and for outlining the work, one a little coarser for cutting thicker lines and for cleaning away small spaces, and a gouge with a round point for cleaning away superfluous wood.

A good light is of course essential, and to avoid the glare and focus the rays on their work engravers sometimes place a glass globe full of water in such a way that the light is focused on the block.

The production of really fine work calls for artistic as well as mechanical skill of no mean quality; but simple designs in outline with

heavy black and white effects are by no means difficult to execute, and are very pleasing. To take a proof of one's work it will be necessary to obtain a roller such as printers use, or a pad covered with soft leather, and a small quantity of printer's ink. This is spread on a smooth surface, preferably wood or glass, and a thin layer rolled or dabbed evenly over the engraving. A sheet of paper is next placed over the design, and the whole is covered with a thicker piece. Next rub over the whole of the surface with a burnisher—the handle of an old toothbrush will do very well, and the print of the engraving will be transferred to the paper.

It will usually be necessary to go over the work again, correcting some of its irregularities and defects. Only a hint of the process of course can be given in a short article, but the beginner in engraving can find plenty of instruction on the subject in any public library, and as the work goes on and simple designs are executed, the interest will grow, and the ambition will be aroused to do more difficult pieces of work. In this connection it is interesting to note that Robert Louis Stevenson was an enthusiastic amateur wood-engraver, and some of the first blocks done by him are on exhibition in the Boston Public Library.

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This picture was painted in 1678 for the Church of the Venerables in Seville, and was bought by the French government at the sale of Marshal Soult's collection in 1852, for \$123,000. It has been said by connoisseurs of Murillo's art, and of this painting in particular, that "no rules known to art could produce that spirit of purity which breathes throughout the creations of Murillo, whose hand has stamped upon them, as far as human hand could do, that perfect nature of the Mother of God, 'spotless without and innocent within.' The Virgin—in the flower of her age, with her hands meekly folded across her breast, draped in the simple blue mantle and flowing white robe which covers her

feet—floats upward toward the sky, attended by beautiful cherubs in every graceful position. The crescent moon under her feet is a symbol of her triumph over every other being who has been elevated to divine honors by man. Her expression is one of girlish simplicity and devout resignation to her heavenly calling."



BITTER MEDICINE. The Doctor Orders It. There is not one among us, from the youngest to the oldest but what dislike to take medicine in any form. This distaste is especially strong among the younger generation. In such cases it often becomes necessary for the Family Doctor to administer his dose by force. Our picture shows the critical moment when the Doctor, with the baby in his arms, who is crying, kicking and protesting in every way possible, is endeavoring to make it take the contents of the big spoon which he holds in his left hand. Gathered around the chair of the Doctor is arranged the balance of the family, all eager and anxious to see what is the matter, and stands looking at the Doctor, enjoying his unsuccessful attempts to overcome the violent protests of the little baby brother. The mother is directly in the rear of the Doctor's chair, and leaning over his shoulder, watches his efforts and those of her baby with motherly interest; while the father, leaning on the table, takes things more seriously. The scene is one which every family who has been through this homely and familiar experience will recognize, for families are perpetuated by babies. Babies become sick and either the parent or the Doctor must of necessity give the medicine, and to accomplish this, as our picture shows, heroic measures are sometimes necessary. In this particular instance, Resistance and Patience seem to be pitted against each other, with the chances in favor of Patience. Mr. Fleischer, the painter, belongs to the Munich school.

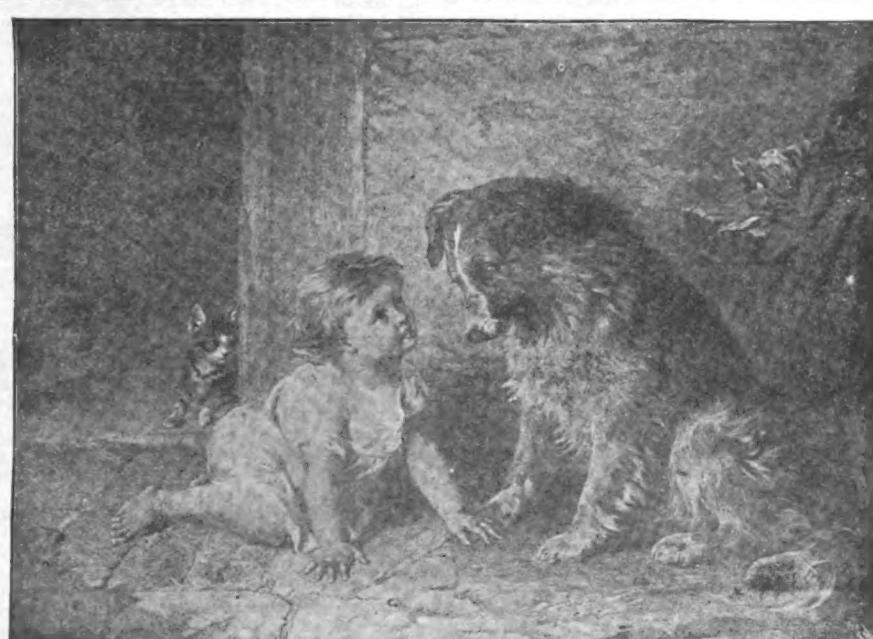
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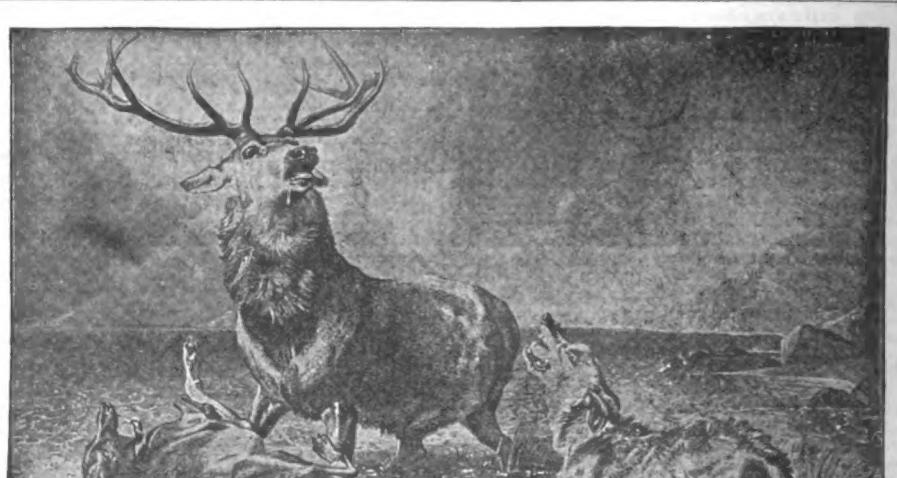
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CAN'T YOU TALK? A \$2000.00 Dog and An Artist's Proof for \$1600.00. As a painter of child and dog life, the world knows no superior to George A. Holmes. In this, considered his best canvas, he has caught the true spirit of friendship which exists between children and dogs, a friendship which is proverbial, and in this subject he creates a true delineation of character, showing a thorough appreciation of the nature of his subjects. It was a real incident which furnished Mr. Holmes with the subject of "Can't You Talk?". He heard that the picture was sold for a large sum at the private view of the Academy where it was first exhibited, and so great was the run on the reproductions that frame makers were kept constantly at work night and day to keep pace with the demand. Even the dog that was used for the model acquired value beyond its worth in the eyes of the publisher, and he offered the owner \$2000.00 for it, but the sum was refused. The picture is one of those with a legal history, for the court has, on more than one occasion, decided questions involving the infringement of the copyright of this valuable property. The early prints themselves have increased enormously in price, and not very long ago an artist's proof was sold for \$1600.00.

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DEFIANCE—OR STAG AT BAY. A Million Dollar Artist. This particular subject was one of Landseer's best pictures. The love of this great painter for all dumb creatures found expression in his art, and wide spread appreciation of his paintings show how firmly the love of animals is fixed in the human mind. No painting has ever been more popular and no one, with the possible exception of Rosa Bonheur, has approached him as a painter of animals. Sir Edwin Landseer, the son of John Landseer, the celebrated engraver, was born in London, March 7th, 1802, and died October 1st, 1873. His remains were interred among the Nation's honored dead in St. Paul's Cathedral. When he died his property amounted to over \$800,000. His various canvases selling for \$30,000 to \$50,000 each, he thus easily earned more than a million dollars from his work. The incident of the picture "Defiance" shows the end of a long hunt over the mountains. The hounds have followed the stag so closely, and in the hope of baffling his pursuers he has taken to the lake, but, nothing daunted, two of the pack follow, yelping, barking and biting at his haunches. When knee deep in water, the gallant stag stops and makes a stand; with a thrust of his noble antlers, born of desperation, he strikes and fells one of the dogs, severely injuring the other which immediately sets up a cry of mingled pain and terror, endeavoring by his yelps to secure the assistance of the rest of the pack, who are standing on the shore afraid to follow. The shades of the long winter day are falling on the shores of the lonely mountain lake where the rivals have finished their fearful race of the afternoon. Night falls, and the moon makes her appearance, and there, bleeding from long gashes, breathless but dauntless, the stag stands, bellowing forth defiance as his wan energy. The moon sets and darkness throws a veil over the scene, not to be lifted until morning breaks showing the stag still at bay.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



Venus in the 9th house of the figure.

The indications of the scheme are not as promising for the welfare of the nation as usual, threatening more than usual mortality from cold and wasting diseases, involving the stomach, liver, kidneys and lungs. The lunation falls almost exactly upon the planet Saturn and the people generally are urged not to be neglectful of colds, but to protect the body as faithfully as possible. At best there must be an unusual prevalence of stomach and digestive troubles, many of them induced, no doubt, by carelessness of diet. Indulgencies in alcoholic beverages in past months will have inflicted serious injury to health upon a great many whose condition at this time will testify to their follies in the past. Nor is this alone confined to those who have so foolishly indulged, but indulgencies of the appetite for equally unhealthful and stimulating foods will be responsible for much dyspepsia and many rheumatic and neuralgic aches and pains.

The presence of Saturn with the conjoined luminaries in the 7th house indicates some lack of harmony between the people and the executive authority of the government or some growing unpopularity of the ruler; also some treachery by which harm is done by public foes or rebellious persons in western and southwestern regions or upon the Mexican frontier. This antagonism of Saturn to the significator of the people prompts unusual activity of the benevolent and charitably disposed for relief of suffering among the poorer classes by reason of extreme cold or inclemency of the season.

Aside from these untoward promises as to physical well being and safety the indications of the figure are not adverse to steady improvement in commercial and monetary affairs.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1902.

JANUARY 1—Wednesday. Do not use this day for engaging in affairs of importance; for misfortune will surely attend them if so begun. Social indulgences will prove very mischievous if temperature and moderation are not observed; use the pen very cautiously; if at all, on this day; give no cause for offence to thy employer nor should favors be expected from such sources; brain and nervous diseases are aggravated at this time and it will be wise to be very prudent in diet; be on guard against fraud and deceit during the first days of this month; do not bargain for houses or lands nor change thy residence on this day.

2—Thursday. Money transactions are best left alone during the forenoon of this day, nor should any purchases be made for purposes of profit; have no dealings with judges, counselors, or ecclesiastics; give preference to the afternoon for the elegant pursuits and all polite avocations; deal with the musician, artist, jeweler, and furnisher and seek pleasure from the drama and social and musical entertainments in the evening.

3—Friday. Defer matters of much importance during the morning hours, but as the day advances let every energy be given to the prosecution of all regularly established business; specially urge all transactions in connection with the literary world; make contracts pertaining to printing and publishing and press all commercial engagements; adjust accounts, hasten correspondence, do press-writing and employ the mind to its fullest extent for the next 30 hours; make applications to superiors for favors or advantages and expect agreeable experiences from real estate and mining matters, unless thy nativity be very evil generally in this respect.

4—Saturday. Continue thy efforts of yesterday in the particulars indicated, wasting no time in pleasure seeking; the merchant and traveller are peculiarly favored on this day; when also accounts you are accustomed to and all mathematical and scientific work should be pushed to the utmost; bargain and sell real estate; purchase printing material in established business of this nature; sell mining stocks and all certificates pertaining to land or its products; make contracts relative to mortgages or the development or improvement of buildings or lands and adjust all controversies concerning same.

5—Sunday. The forenoon is the best part of this day for religious exercises, although the musical portion of service is less promotive of good than usual and the elegant and artistic in life give less than usual satisfaction.

6—Monday. This day has but little to recommend it, and should not be chosen for the execution of deeds or writings, nor should the judgment be too implicitly relied upon during the day. This is particularly true of persons born about the 9th of January, April, July, or October, of past years, for such persons are likely to be now immersed in troublesome circumstances, business setbacks or physical ailments, according to the time of day at which born; mental anxieties or embarrassments, troubles through accounts or in correspondences, or annoyances from slanderous or malicious tongues are frequently indicated for such nativities under like conditions.

Let all persons so born studiously avoid all contracts concerning houses, lands, mines, or oil wells, and many of those here indicated are likely to be now brought to a realization of losses from past dealings in such matters; they certainly should not now make any beginning of such nature but should act conservatively in every venture in their passing life; should run no risks with surplus capital nor be deluded by false promises of new ventures now presenting themselves.

7—Tuesday. Make no application to persons high in official position for any favor or advantage; control the temper and be slow and judicious in all the business moves of the day; keep out of disputes and have no dealings with mechanics or manufacturers; the afternoon and evening are the better parts of the day.

8—Wednesday. Avoid thy landlord at this time and beware of any extensive dealings in lands, mines, oil wells or any of the products of the earth.

9—Thursday. This is to be counted an extremely evil day; and REGULUS cautions his friends against entering at this time upon any new business or enterprise, for nothing now begun will prosper nor should any permanent benefit or advantage be expected from the general transactions of the day; travel not, if it can be avoided, and beware of incurring the displeasure of those in authority. If this be the anniversary of thy birthday, or if born about the 9th of April, 11th of July, or 12th of October, of past years, do thou exercise extraordinary care in all thine acts for several weeks to come and particular caution is prompted as to diet and such habits as upset the digestive apparatus. The tendency in many such nativities is to lower the moral standard and incline the person to "dip" into a lower moral plane than that on which he was born. This results in many cases from discouraging circumstances which for a season seem to surround them and hinder their usual good fortune. Let all marriageable ladies, so born, beware of entering upon any matrimonial engagement at this time if their desire is for peace or good fortune in the marriage relation. Many of those so born who are already married are likely to be now considerably troubled in mind over the tide of misfortune that now seems to be falling to their lot.

through husband, father, or brother; patience and consideration are counseled for a season until the storm clouds break away and disclose the bright sunshine beyond.

10—Friday. Close upon the heels of the evil conditions of yesterday come the benevolent influences of this day, promising to shorten the reign of mischief referred to and relieve in great measure the troubles and anxieties resulting from the inharmonious elements in such lives. Push business to the utmost during the first half of this day; buy goods for trade; consult lawyers; deal with bankers, judges, and persons of wealth and prominence; make money collections, urge correspondence, sign writings pertaining to commercial affairs; deal with printers, publishers, authors, scientists and mathematicians, and give attention to all educational enterprises and the intellectual pursuits generally.

11—Saturday. Look out for disputes in the early hours and avoid any unusual excitement if the heart be constitutionally affected, or serious complications arise at this time. Some bad fires are likely during the early morning hours; the mid hours of the day are the best.

12—Sunday. The forenoon conduces to happy efforts of the clergy, giving special eloquence and zeal to the extemporaneous speaker and closer attention and more ready comprehension from the listener.

13—Monday. Avoid speculations in houses and lands and give a wide berth to thy landlord and those engaged in the dirty and laborious occupations in life.

14—Tuesday. Be not rash in the early forenoon, when also employees of great corporations and public officials are likely to give thee little consideration; but as the forenoon advances let every energy be given to the prosecution of all business; make engagements concerning lands, buildings, excavations, wells and stocks, mortgages, deeds, leases etc. pertaining to such things; deal in lumber, coal, wood, lead, petroleum, lime and all agricultural products; attend to the financial part of such dealings; purchase goods for trade, seek money accommodations, adjust accounts and make collections.

15—Wednesday. Waste none of the moments of this day, but pursue thine avocations vigorously, for thine exertions for pecuniary advantage in all honorable undertakings will meet with more than ordinary success; buy goods for profit; open new stores for business purposes, and make beginnings in the major enterprises; urge all literary pursuits, sign deeds and writings and file suits at law; give preference to the afternoon for transaction of business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, firearms, metals, glassware, brass and iron work, and chemical and electrical apparatus and also with all persons engaged in manufacture and in the ingenious and mechanical trades; mathematical and scientific work of magnitude should be commenced on this day.

16—Thursday. Use the forenoon for thine engagements with public officials or with persons concerned with trade marks, patents, or copyrights, but do not expect much progress in thine affairs in the afternoon when more baffling conditions prevail, more likely to bring disappointments. If not actual losses; hold on to the purse-strings and see that thy pennies are not given for needless and unsatisfactory articles.

17—Friday. The forenoon is indifferent but the afternoon and evening encourage prosecution of musical and artistic studies and good progress in all the elegant trades and avocations and give enjoyment from the drama, the fine arts, amusements and social gatherings; the evening is less favorable for the strictly intellectual engagements, discouraging mental efforts and giving unsatisfactory conclusions from such engagements of the past; the night hours increase activity among thieves and will witness some bad experiences from fires, explosions, or other classes of violent accidents.

18—Saturday. The early morning gives no promise of advantage from any enterprise but as the sun passes the moon mark thou mayst expect profit and benefit from all honorable pursuits; urge business to the utmost; enter into contracts concerning landed properties of all kinds and the products of the earth, such as produce, timber, lumber, coal, petroleum and wood; attend to financial transactions during the afternoon when also urge every honorable pursuit more vigorously than usual and despite the fact that it is the last hours of the week.

19—Sunday. A superior Sabbath day, when religious exercises will be earnest and effective and all church matters are prospered. Favors at the hands of superiors will be more readily obtained than usual and physical conditions will be buoyant and healthful; social matters will be discordant in the evening and lovers will need to be guarded against disagreements.

20—Monday. The first two-thirds of this day will be specially fortunate for surveyors, printers, engravers, carvers, chemists and surgeons; have dentistry performed and pursue mathematical and scientific studies; urge all the literary pursuits and deal with the intellectual classes generally; do not expect any degree of success, however, in thy dealings with public men or government officials or with thine employer or thy superior in authority.

21—Tuesday. Scrutinize thy business enterprises born on this day and have care that thou art not misled by extravagant representations or over flattering appearances. Keep out of all kinds of disputes; seek pleasure from polite literature or from the dramatical or musical entertainment in the evening.

22—Wednesday. Give preference to the forenoon for the most important transactions of this day, the afternoon being more likely to give disappointment in most of the ventures in life; have no dealings with persons in the building trades or who are concerned in commerce; do not make any bargain relative to mortgages or leases or any of the earth's products.

23—Thursday. Conditions are very threatening on this day and money transactions have but little, if any chance of success; inducements may be held out for speculation, but REGULUS advises his friends to beware of temptation; litigation and heavy loss, if not bankruptcy, are likely to fall to the lot of a very great majority of those who embark their surplus capital on this day; combustion is quickened and some bad fires and losses therefore are very probable in these passing hours, and increased mortality from apoplexy and heart disease, also from hemorrhages and violence is more than likely. Persons born about the 17th of January or April, or 21st of July or 29th of October, of past years, will need to exercise more than ordinary care in finances during 1902, and should also be very prudent in diet and look out for fires; those of the gentle sex so born, should counsel their near male relatives to be specially guarded as to both health and pecuniary transactions.

24—Friday. Choose not this day for engaging in matters of great importance; have extra care in handling fire; avoid travelling; defer transactions in law; sign no contracts and postpone correspondence; rashness and violence will characterize many of the events of the day.

25—Saturday. An active and energetic day, encouraging travel and the pursuit of chemical and all unconnected studies.

26—Sunday. Not a satisfactory day for mental engagements nor for religious exercises of any kind, and church matters suffer adversely; do not seek the society of the fair sex nor of persons advanced in years.

27—Monday. Actively pursue thy several avocations during all this day giving preference, however, to the forenoon for dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, lead, coal and all classes of building materials; use the afternoon for thy money transactions in connection with thy regular and established business; seek money accommodations and urge all honorable pursuits.

28—Tuesday. Look out for quarrels in the morning hours; seek favor or advancement during the noon time, but be very cautious in the use of the pen during the afternoon and evening when mental exercises will be less satisfactory than usual; defer correspondence for a few hours.

29—Wednesday. Make applications to government officials during the morning hours; have nothing to do with house-painters, stucco-workers or decorators during the middle part of the day when transactions with architects, furniture dealers and upholsterers should not be had; after the noon hours let attention be given to chemical and electrical enterprises, and pursue intellectual and literary labors during the evening and night hours.

30—Thursday. Attend to correspondence in the early part of the day, though beware of signing any money obligation in that time; use the afternoon for the elegant pursuits; consult thy milliner, dressmaker and tailor, and attend to matters requiring taste for their success.

31—Friday. Seek no promotion in official station nor any favor or business advantage from thine employer nor thy competitor in business; the afternoon is the best part of the day, especially for investigations relative to houses or lands.

NOTICE.

After years of suffering I have at last discovered a sure and harmless remedy for all female diseases and the piles. I will gladly send a free sample box to any sufferer. Send at once. Mrs. PEARL R. MORGAN, Warsaw, Ind.

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COMFORT.

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"CALTHOS"

Prof. Larborde's Marvelous French Cure for Lost Manhood.

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To All Sufferers.

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

The only preparation known to science which really cures Lost Manhood is "CALTHOS," the marvelous French remedy discovered by Prof. Jules Larborde. It is controlled in this country by THE VON MOHL COMPANY, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a concern which occupies a high and honorable place in the world of medicine. It is one of the largest and most responsible houses in Cincinnati, as anyone who is acquainted in that city will testify.

THE VON MOHL COMPANY invites all men suffering from Lost Manhood, Spermatorrhœa, Varicocele, Small Parts or Weakness of any nature in the Nerves or Sexual Organs, to send their names and receive a five days' treatment. This will prove the wonderful vitalizing powers of "CALTHOS." After using it five days the sufferers will find new vigor in their organs, new force in their muscles, new blood in their veins, new ambition, and rapid progress toward the buoyant feelings and sensations of younger days.

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It doesn't make any difference what caused the weakness—whether bad habits in youth, or excess, or overwork, or business troubles. "Calthos" will effect a cure, no matter what big name the disease may be called by doctors.

THE VON MOHL COMPANY treats all correspondence in perfect confidence. Under no conditions will it make public the names of the thousands who have written testimonials telling of their restoration to robust manhood after other medicines and appliances have proved worthless. "Calthos" is regularly used in the French and German armies, and the soldiers in those countries have come to be perfect models of strength and vitality. Cures are effected at all ages from twenty to eighty years. There is no case (except where the stage of epilepsy or insanity has been reached) which it will not radically, quickly and permanently cure. Sexual weakness does not cure itself. It grows worse from week to week. Each day aggravates the mental and physical anguish.

Send today for the free five days' trial treatment. If it helps you, more of the medicine can be purchased. If it does not help no harm is done and no money has been paid out. You can send your name in the full knowledge that it will be kept from all. The "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. Address applications for trial treatment, etc., to

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A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "You will say, 'I could do this work if I only had the tools.' You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench; 1 stabbin awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 stabbin awl; 1 leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 clinch nail, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails, 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed, together

FREE TO ALL



A BOTTLE OF SWANSON'S "5-DROPS"
SENT POSTPAID TO ANY READER OF THIS PAPER

Cut out the coupon in this advertisement and send direct to Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., with your name and address, and a bottle of "5-DROPS" will be mailed you at once. All that we ask in return is that you take it as directed, and you will find it all that we claim. You need not feel under any obligations whatever in securing the trial treatment which we offer. Here is an opportunity to test a remedy without any expense to you. Certainly nothing can be fairer than this. It has never failed to do all, and more than we claim for it, and we know that if you but will give it a trial you will acknowledge that "5-DROPS" is the medical wonder of the century.

THE ONLY SURE CURE FOR RHEUMATISM

Lumbago, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Asthma, Catarrh, Liver and Kidney Troubles, La Grippe, Nervousness, Backache, Dyspepsia, Gout, Indigestion, Croup, Nervous and Neuralgic Headache, Heart Weakness, Paralysis, Creeping Numbness, Sleeplessness and Blood Diseases.

Swanson's "5-DROPS" not only effects a quick, permanent, positive cure of all the above named diseases, but, by cleansing the system of all impurities, prevents the dreaded after effects, which are frequently as disastrous as the disease itself. No remedy ever produced will cure Rheumatism as safely and surely as Swanson's "5-DROPS." It makes no difference whether you are suffering from Inflammatory, Nervous, Muscular or Articular Rheumatism; whether your whole system is full of uric acid; whether every part of your body is aching and every joint is out of shape; "5-DROPS," if used as directed in the necessary quantity, will positively give instant relief and effect a permanent cure. By purifying the blood, it dissolves the uric acid and all other impurities and removes them from the system; it is the grandest builder of nerve force in the world; it strengthens the muscles and puts all the organs of the body in a natural, healthy, condition.

PROMINENT CLERGYMEN PRAISE THE MARVELOUS CURATIVE POWER OF "5-DROPS."

"This time a year ago I was obliged to use crutches on account of Rheumatism, but now, thank God, and the regular and constant use of "5-DROPS," I am active and able to attend to all the duties of my sacred calling. Had my trouble not been chronic before I began to use your wonderful remedy I feel perfectly satisfied that my cure would have been almost immediate."

REV. FATHER MACKEY, St. James' Church, West Duluth, Minn.

"For twenty long years my wife suffered untold tortures from Sciatica Rheumatism and Neuralgia, and I thank God for the day that your heaven-sent remedy fell into my hands, for it completely cured her. I am a minister of the gospel, and when I find any who suffer I cannot help but recommend "5-DROPS," for I know it will do more than you claim for it."

REV. F. M. COOPER, Washington, Center, Mo.

"I suffered terribly for two years from Nervous Prostration. I tried other nerve tonics with very little relief, and, in fact, I began to despair of ever being any better. Fortunately for me, Mr. Allen M. Sage recommended your remedy so highly and told what it had done for him that I was induced to try it. To my great astonishment one bottle of "5-DROPS," and one box of Swanson's Pills did me more good than all other medicines I had ever taken. I believe it to be the most wonderful discovery for nervous and rheumatic diseases of the present age."

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Every family should have a bottle of "5-DROPS" on hand ready for use in case of emergency. It will stop a pain in less time than any other medicine and if taken occasionally keep the blood and system in such a healthy condition that disease will be almost an impossibility. It cures croup, stops a stomach ache almost instantly, aids digestion, keeps the bowels in good condition. Prevents those terrible pains caused by neuralgia. It is a medicine which will save its cost ten times over by stopping the attack of disease at the outset, thus saving a doctor's bill. Every member of the household will need "5-DROPS" at some time or other.

"5-DROPS" quiets the nerves and gives refreshing sleep to those who are mentally overworked and whose nervous system is so greatly in need of rest. Many have been cured of some terrible nervous disease by only a single bottle of "5-DROPS." Melancholia, sleeplessness, etc., are simply the result of a breakdown of the nerve muscles. "5-DROPS" will restore the nerves to their natural healthy condition by going directly to the seat of the trouble. It will restore your energy, vim and push as nothing else will do.

WARNING Accept no substitute for "5-DROPS." Nothing else can do its work. Insist on securing the genuine. AGENTS WANTED. Write for terms. Large size bottle (300 doses) for \$1.00. If it is not obtainable in your town order from us direct and we will send it prepaid.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 160 LAKE ST., CHICAGO

With a Magnifying Glass.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THERE is a wonderful world open to us through the magnifying glass. Some one has called this region "the back stairs of Nature," because its work is carried on out of sight. It is the world of insects and small water-creatures with their queer changes. Look at this tiny crystal tube! It darts to and fro, transacts its business deftly, yet it has no legs or wings or hands. Here seem to be a few specks of dust on a leaf. Through the glass we see they are transparent eggs. Very soon you can perceive distinctly the outline of a body inside, with legs, a head with protuberant black eyes; and then a lively creature skips forth, ready to feed or to fight!

These water and air worlds, the first life-stations so to speak, have many and odd patterns. Among the birds, quadrupeds and men the pattern is finally decided upon. You know at least how many legs, arms and eyes to expect and also where to expect them. But Nature has some surprising patterns at the back stairs laboratory. What is really needful? she seems to ask. Here is a stomach with a fringe of hairs to catch its prey. That gets on finely as a water hydra. Some polypus have one stomach in common and thrive very well, indeed. Sometimes the tiny animal has but one foot which it uses as an oar, a spade or a hook at will. Sometimes it has many legs and pro-legs, of unequal lengths. Now the legs will be arranged in two rows like a caterpillar, and again in a circle like the spider's. The eyes may be anywhere, and they may be compound eyes with any number of facets, or they may have several pairs of eyelids, thick and thin, according to need. You can hardly imagine any sort of weapon or defensive device that is not in use by some insect or other. Beside their wings for flight and their own special weapons, horns, claws, beaks, etc., they have every evil device even known to man; lassos ingeniously coiled, marks and disguises to conceal their real character, tubes of poison to kill or benumb, the hidden daggers of their sharp sting and all sorts of traps and pitfalls. Yes, certainly here have been tried and tested all things for the primitive life—the capture of food for its devouring hunger, ways of escaping or over-coming an enemy, devices of the householder for the preservation of its young, though it must be owned these are often of the simplest. If eggs, they are dropped in a safe place, or perhaps lashed together on a sort of raft and left to their fate. If the young come by budding, they are nourished from the parent stem for a while and then break off and float away to set up a new household. The simplest method of making a family is by division, each piece an entire creature; but, of

course, as the animal grows more complex, has more organs, and more intelligence, this method is put aside. Nothing is more wonderful than the instinct with which some insects provide for the children they will never see. They have never known parents, they will never know their offspring, yet they store up food, they spin silken coverlets, they choose safe shelter. Does not one come near a Divine Father's thought here?

There is a wealth of color, grace, fancy in the decoration of these almost invisible cradles and homes. The butterfly eggs look like Mosques and Minarets of a Moorish city in their rich, fantastic arabesques and twisted coils. Some of the stalls on the Azore Islands might be mistaken for grains of sand, and yet each one, in its curve and recurve, is,

"A work divine,
Made so fairly well
With delicate spire and whirl.
How exquisitely minute,
A miracle of design!"

For softness of texture and perfect daintiness, no human handiwork can excel the silken chrysalids of the moths, the silvery threads of the spider's gossamer, the cell of the burrowing bees, lined with the satin-like petals of the rose and the red poppy. Other insects weave together leaves in bower of greenery. We find even the grotesque in perfection in the humorous caddis-worm, who covers itself with pebbles and bits of wood until it is quite invisible.

Beauty is given with full hands to the minute things of air and water. Do you notice the dust or powder on a moth's wing that makes it so soft and velvety? Each grain of this dust is a perfect plume. Look at the jelly fish, how they throb and flicker with beautiful colors and lights! How freely is every little creature decorated with a glitter as of gold or silver! The beetle of Brazil, one of the hard, horny beetles, shines like a priceless emerald. The fireflies, the glowworms, thousands of sea-creatures, are their own lamps as well as lamp-bearers, and light the whole region where they are.

No one can make acquaintance with dwellers in the sea, or the invisible neighbors of the microscope-world, without growing keenly interested in their life-histories, full of changes and adventures. The simplest insect begins as an egg, with its store provided with strange foresight, then it is a worm or caterpillar with all sorts of disguises from its many enemies—protective coloration, and queer attitudes, so that it looks like a leaf or a twig or a bit of moss; hiding-places ingeniously constructed in the leaves, and what is odder still, this pulpy, helpless thing erects its homes, lashes itself from side to side, as if it were a furious beast, to keep away its smaller foes! Next comes the curious self-burial, the long, trance-like sleep, and the awakening as a butterfly with its grave-clothes or old skin rolled in a heap, and the sepulcher or chrysalis-case rent apart. It is an old-looking, wrinkled, ugly thing, feeble and drawn up when it first appears, but it hangs itself on a nail or a twig, and stretches and stretches itself to its full size, with smooth wings glorious in color, and at last floats away to revel in sunshine and fragrance and sweetness. Is not this a charming story?

There is something that even looks like a moral choice here, for it is said some individual

insects refuse to bury themselves, and so die incomplete, while others obey the law, and come out glorified. As a writer said once of the tiny sea-creatures, the greatest marvel is that we find here too

"A little living will."

There are twilight places, but by the aid of a glass we may see him,—our sea-neighbor—

"Stand at the diamond door
Of his home in a rainbow frill,
Or push, when he is uncurled,
A golden foot or a fairy horn
Through the dim water-world."

Let us learn the secrets of these little neighbors. They are far more charming and wonderful than any Fairy-tales in the world!

The Most Wonderful Cave in the World.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEN Mammoth Cave and the great Caverns of Luray were discovered they were considered the most wonderful in the world, but within a few years, a much more marvelous one has been found in South Dakota, called "Wind Cave." The United States Government has secured control of the cave, the majestic extent and wonderful formations of which have been but little described and seldom pictured. As at present managed, but seven miles of the ninety miles of passageways and chambers which have been invaded by discoverers are open to sight-seers. Many of the most gorgeously

altered and tesselated rooms are accessible only after considerable exertion, but under the handiwork of the Government's agents these will have passageways opened or bridges thrown across the narrow chasms, so that the trip can be made not only with safety, but comfort.

In Wind Cave ninety miles of underground passageways have been explored, opening up an aggregate of twenty-five hundred rooms or chambers. The entire distance is possible to be traversed without danger or discomfort, and when the cave shall have been equipped with electric lights, according to the plans suggested to the Government officials now in charge, with bridges over the few narrow chasms which are to be encountered, and the cave thrown open to the public, it will no doubt become one of the most famous resorts in the country.

Like Mammoth Cave the opening is by way of a small cabin. Immediately upon entering

this cabin one is struck by the roaring noise at the rear, the sound approaching that of a high wind soughing through tree-tops. It is this prevalent wind which has given the cave its name.

Stepping inside, the noise ceases, and one first goes down for about one hundred and fifty steps into the blackness of darkness. From this point, the slope towards the interior of the earth is gradual and so slight as not to require exertion either in descending or ascending.

The first of the peculiar formations to be found is a room about twenty to thirty feet in size. The entire side walls and ceiling is of "box-work," consisting of small squares from two to four inches in diameter, and about the same in depth, opening outward and possessing the general appearance of the tiers of boxes in a post-office. The formation is the first process of crystallization, the crystals being very fine and of a reddish brown, similar to the color of the surface soil and rock. From its appearance this room has been called the "post-office," and in the boxes repose the cards of thousands of persons who have visited the cave.

Two or three rooms farther in comes Odd Fellow's hall, two hundred and thirty feet below the surface, and a much larger room than the preceding chambers, but with the crystallization still in a formative state. Beyond this the real beauties of the place begin to be seen. The first change in formation noticeable is that the crystals are growing "crumby" in size and whiteness, in each succeeding chamber becoming harder in appearance and larger in size until the "popcorn" formation is met. This is the first indication of stalactite and stalagmite, and it has been named "Dripstone Paradise."

From this point immense chambers succeed each other, each, as the route descends, showing an increased antiquity and each possessing more of brilliancy of reflection and design of nature's carvings than the preceding. Caverns of gigantic proportions are traversed, one of the smallest being sixty feet in width and over two hundred in length.

From this point the descent is more rapid, yet not so great as to be uncomfortable. As each cavern is now reached through passageways of fair width and a happy dryness, one of the guides hastens in advance to the opposite side and strikes calcium lights, whose brilliancy is reflected far into the darkness above and to the walls on either side, which are here of the hardest crystal formation, niched and carved, polished and scintillating, a veritable palace of diamonds.

Four miles of crystal caverns are traversed from this point, each possessing some point of beauty more interesting and wonderful than has been before seen, the Crystal Palace at the end of the journey forming a climax to an entrancing pleasure and sight-seeing excursion. This chamber is estimated to be thirty-five hundred feet below the surface and is seven miles from the entrance.

Truly it would seem, would it not, that we are just beginning to develop the wonders of this "great and glorious country"?

Mt. St. Elias, supposed to be the highest point in Alaska, is now believed to be in Canadian territory. There are reports of mountains in Alaska far to the northwest, higher than Mt. St. Elias, but not yet verified.

NOTICE—Swanson's "5-DROPS" is a household remedy that every family should have, and we advise our readers to take advantage of use and write them at once.—EDITOR.

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